

Baseball Mexico's

# MEXICAN LEAGUE



2011 Season Guide



**BBM 2010 MEXICAN LEAGUE MOST VALUABLE PLAYER: Willis Otanez, Puebla**

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***Edited by Bruce Baskin, Baseball Mexico***

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*Cover: Geronimo Gil, Mexico City Diablos Rojos (photo by Enrique Gutierrez)*

*Rosters updated from original versions Minor League Baseball website as of 4/10/11*

# History of Mexican Baseball

Just as in the United States, it's impossible to trace the exact beginning of baseball in Mexico. Unlike the United States, nobody has created an Abner Doubleday myth for Mexican baseball. What **is** generally accepted among *cronistas* of Mexico's baseball history is that the game was imported south of the border in the late 1800's by soldiers, sailors or railroad builders from the USA. While such places as Nuevo Laredo, Cadereyta de Jimenez and Guaymas have all laid claim to being the birthplace of *beisbol*, the only certainty is that American sailors from the ship U.S.S. Montana played an exhibition game in Guaymas, Sonora in 1877, and that a local Guaymas team was formed shortly thereafter. About ten years later, a team called the Mexico Club was created in the nation's capital, creating a link between baseball and the nation's largest city that continues to this day with the Mexican League's 15-time champion Diablos Rojos.

Baseball was played on a somewhat haphazard basis in Mexico through the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The game grew steadily as American teams would cross the border to play ball against local nines of Mexican players, and clubs began springing up here and there across the country in a southward spread. The 1906 World Series champion Chicago White Sox were the first major league team to visit Mexico. As the 1920's opened, baseball was becoming the most popular sport in the country, but there was no formal high-level professional league until a sportswriter and baseball manager put their heads together in 1925 to form what is now the Mexican League.

Alejandro Aguilar Reyes, better known as "Fray Nano" to readers of *La Aficion*, was a 23-year-old *cronista* when he joined with manager Ernesto Carmona to form the six-team Mexican League. Fray Nano was league president for two years before becoming LMB Commissioner from 1927 through 1942. While Fray Nano handled much of the new Liga's organizing and publicity, the well-connected Carmona was able to bring many of Mexico's best players into the LMB (along with another respected baseball man, Homobono Marquez, who ran the powerful Aztec club).

The early-day Mexican League was centered almost exclusively in Mexico City, with representation in nearby cities such as Veracruz and Puebla. Teams were usually named after businesses that sponsored them, like modern clubs in Asian leagues, and it wasn't until the late 1930's that most teams in the Liga represented cities instead of underwriters.

The Mexican League in the 1940's was dominated by Jorge Pasquel. The 33-year-old Pasquel was a very wealthy man who entered the Liga in 1940 with his Veracruz Azules and eventually took over running the entire circuit. Pasquel was willing to spend money, and by the mid-40's offered contracts to such major league players as Ted Williams, Bob Feller and Phil Rizzuto for far more than they were earning in the United States. While he fell short of bringing in the biggest names, Pasquel did induce Sal Maglie, Max Lanier and Vern Stephens into signing with the Liga. More important, Pasquel had earlier brought such Negro League stars as Cool Papa Bell, Josh Gibson, Ray Dandridge and Roy Campanella to Mexico. Bell, in particular, thrived south of the border, batting .367 over four seasons and winning the Triple Crown in 1940 by hitting .437 with 12 homers and 79 RBIs in 89 games. Black players in general enjoyed playing in Mexico because the money was good, the weather was warm and they did not face the kinds of prejudices that dogged them in the United States.

However, Pasquel fell short in his dream of achieving parity with the major leagues, and was a bitter man when he left baseball in 1952. He died three years later in a plane wreck at the age of 48, and the Liga nearly died at the same time. The death of Jorge Pasquel in 1955 put an exclamation point on the end of the free-spending era of Mexican League baseball, but by then, the Liga had problems of its own. Pasquel was a tempestuous man, but when he pulled out of baseball altogether in 1951 he left a void not easily replaced and the Liga was on the deathwatch by the winter of 1954-55.

However, two things saved pro baseball in Mexico: Most important was the infusion of new ownership of teams in the Mexican League, bringing new capital and ideas. The reformed Liga then made peace with the Major Leagues and Organized Baseball, who had severed relations with the "outlaw" league after Pasquel's concerted player raids in 1946 raised salaries across the border when American teams were forced to pay better to keep their players. The "new" Mexican League officially became a Class AA minor league, ending the ten-year war.

Among the new owners, perhaps the most important one was Alejo Peralta, who began the Mexico City Tigres in 1955. Peralta was similar to Pasquel in that he was a very wealthy and driven man, but there was a vast difference between the two men in the kinds of teams they built. Whereas Pasquel tried to recruit top players from America to Veracruz, Peralta insisted that the Tigres' roster consist entirely of Mexican players. Pasquel wanted to build a dynasty, period, but Peralta wanted to prove Mexicans could be great ballplayers without foreign help. Peralta's Tigres went on to win six Liga pennants through 1997 (the year he died at age 80), he personally started two minor leagues and supported another, and served as LMB commissioner for many years.

The solidified Mexican League then entered a period of relative stability for several years, although (as now) a number of teams came and went. Mexico City was shared for decades by the Tigres and Diablos Rojos until the Tigres finally left town and began an odyssey that has seen them end up in Cancun, former home of the Langosteros franchise which was displaced after severe hurricanes in 2006 caused severe damage to the ballpark there. Other long-standing teams over the years have been the Veracruz Aguilas, Monterrey Sultanes, Yucatan Leones, Campeche Piratas and the Saltillo Saraperos. Ironically, before Saltillo won the pennant in 2009, the only other time the Saraperos claimed the flag in their 40-year history was in the strike-interrupted season of 1980.

That year, the Liga season began as normal in March amid growing calls among Mexican players for higher wages and allegations of preferential treatment for imported players from the United States. Finally, the domestic players walked off the job in July and eventually formed their own league of striking players in various Mexican cities. Although the Liga tried to fill with void with strikebreaking players, the remainder of the 1980 was a disaster, with no playoffs held. Although Saltillo was awarded the Mexican League "pennant because the Saraperos had the best record when play halted, many historians do not recognize the championship as legitimate.

Although the Mexican League is considered Class AAA by Minor League Baseball, it is unlike any other circuit in that all Liga teams are independent. It perhaps bears the closest resemblance to the old-time minor leagues among all current members of Organized Baseball. At present, the Mexican League has 14 teams in two divisions, with a 110-game regular season running between March and July followed by playoffs through the end of August.

## **Past Mexican League champions**

1925	Puebla 74 Regimiento	1968	Mexico City Diablos Rojos
1926	Jalapa Ocampo	1969	Reynosa Broncos
1927	Mexico City Gendarmeria	1970	Veracruz Aguilas
1928	Mexico City Policia	1971	Jalisco Charros
1929	Mexico City Chiclets Adams	1972	Cordoba Cafeteros
1930	Mexico City Comintra	1973	Mexico City Diablos Rojos
1931	Mexico City Trafico	1974	Mexico City Diablos Rojos
1932	Mexico City Obras Publicas	1975	Tampico Alijadores
1933	Mexico City Comintra	1976	Mexico City Diablos Rojos
1934	Mexico City Monte de Piedad	1977	Nuevo Laredo Tecolotes
1935	Mexico City Agrario	1978	Aguascalientes Rieleros
1936	Mexico City Agrario	1979	Puebla Angeles
1937	Veracruz Aguilas	1980	Saltillo Saraperos
1938	Veracruz Aguilas	1981	Mexico City Diablos Rojos
1939	Cordoba Cafeteros	1982	Juarez Indios
1940	Veracruz Azules	1983	Campeche Piratas
1941	Veracruz Azules	1984	Yucatan Leones
1942	Union Laguna	1985	Mexico City Diablos Rojos
1943	Monterrey Industriales	1986	Puebla Angeles
1944	Veracruz Azules	1987	Mexico City Diablos Rojos
1945	Tampico Alijadores	1988	Mexico City Diablos Rojos
1946	Tampico Alijadores	1989	Dos Laredos Tecolotes
1947	Monterrey Industriales	1990	Leon Bravos
1948	Monterrey Industriales	1991	Monterrey Sultanes
1949	Monterrey Industriales	1992	Mexico City Tigres
1950	Union Laguna	1993	Tabasco Olmecas
1951	Veracruz Azules	1994	Mexico City Diablos Rojos
1952	Veracruz Aguilas	1995	Monterrey Sultanes
1953	Nuevo Laredo Tecolotes	1996	Monterrey Sultanes
1954	Nuevo Laredo Tecolotes	1997	Mexico City Tigres
1955	Mexico City Tigres	1998	Oaxaca Guerreros
1956	Mexico City Diablos Rojos	1999	Mexico City Diablos Rojos
1957	Yucatan Leones	2000	Mexico City Tigres
1958	Nuevo Laredo Tecolotes	2001	Mexico City Tigres
1959	Poza Rica Petroleros	2002	Mexico City Diablos Rojos
1960	Mexico City Tigres	2003	Mexico City Diablos Rojos
1961	Veracruz Aguilas	2004	Campeche Piratas
1962	Monterrey Sultanes	2005	Angelopolis Tigres
1963	Puebla Pericos	2006	Yucatan Leones
1964	Mexico City Diablos Rojos	2007	Monterrey Sultanes
1965	Mexico City Tigres	2008	Mexico City Diablos Rojos
1966	Mexico City Tigres	2009	Saltillo Saraperos
1967	Jalisco Charros	2010	Saltillo Saraperos





## **MEXICAN LEAGUE**

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**PRESIDENT: Plinio Escalante Bolio**

**OPERATIONS DIRECTOR: Nestor Alba Brito**

**ADMINISTRATION DIRECTOR: Oscar Neri Rojas Salazar**

**PLAYER REGISTRATION/CONTROL: Emmanuel Rustrian Bello**

**MEDIA COORDINATOR: Demetrio Hernandez Carmona**

**MERCHANDISING COORDINATOR: Alberto Guadarrama Barrera**

**STATISTICS & INFORMATION: Mauricio Garcia Sanchez**

### **BBM 2011 MEXICAN LEAGUE PREDICTIONS**

#### **NORTHERN ZONE**

1. Mexico City Diablos Rojos (Loaded lineup with just enough pitching, favorite for pennant)
2. Monterrey Sultanes (Should challenge Diablos all year, offense vastly bulked up in offseason)
3. Saltillo Saraperos (Good lineup with power and speed but pitching unreliable...just like in 2010)
4. Puebla Pericos (A playoff berth, yes, but Pericos will find going tougher in the LMB North)
5. Monclova Acereros (A good underrated team, but not quite enough for postseason slot)
6. Reynosa Broncos (Otaner makes them more dangerous, but pitching just not strong enough)
7. Laguna Vaqueros (Good skipper who's seen it all at helm, but "Paquin" can't play for them)

#### **SOUTHERN ZONE**

1. Oaxaca Guerreros (Should benefit from past adversity and Puebla shift, best bet for Final berth)
2. Yucatan Leones (Could finish on top if pitching improves, but look out below if it doesn't)
3. Quintana Roo Tigres (Nice roster with lots of good vets, but loss of Cramer is bound to hurt)
4. Campeche Piratas (Rivera can carry them into the playoffs, but not enough to go much further)
5. Veracruz Aguilas (Best of the LMB South's rest could surprise if they get any kind of pitching)
6. Minatitlan Petroleros (Not likely a playoff team, but Petros have been improving over the years)
7. Tabasco Olmecas (Totally luckless franchise that needs a break, survival may be team's only goal)

**NORTHERN SEMIS: Mexico City over Puebla, Monterrey over Saltillo**

**SOUTHERN SEMIS: Oaxaca over Campeche, Quintana Roo over Yucatan**

**NORTHERN FINALS: Mexico City over Monterrey**

**SOUTHERN FINALS: Quintana Roo over Oaxaca**

**LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP: Mexico City over Quintana Roo**



### **CAMPECHE PIRATAS**

**Filiberto Qui Farfan no. 2, Col. Camino Real  
Campeche, Campeche, Mexico C.P. 24020**

**PHONE:** (981) 816-6071

**EMAIL:** piratas@prodigy.net.mx

**WEBSITE:** www.piratasdecampeche.com.mx

**PRESIDENT:** Enrique Rosado Mendez

**GENERAL MANAGER:** Gabriel Lozano Berron

**FIELD MANAGER:** Marco Antonio Guzman

**BALLPARK:** Estadio Nelson Barrera Romellon

**CAPACITY:** 6,000

**2010 RECORD:** 52-50

A monster season from Ruben Rivera and a solid starting staff led by Francisco Campos and Hector Velazquez weren't enough for Campeche to gain a playoff berth in 2010 despite a winning record and a second-half Mexican League South Division title.

Rivera hit .360 with 21 homers and 73 RBIs in CF and was a legitimate MVP candidate. Another ex-big leaguer, OF Jolbert Cabrera (.364/10/63), is both a versatile fielder and clutch batter. They'll be joined by RF Roberto Valencia (.333). 1B Pedro Diaz (.303/7/43 for Monclova) and vet 3B Roque Sanchez (.330) will man the corners while first-time starting 2B Manuel Lopez (.257) and ageless SS Javier Robles (.274/8/35) cover the middle. Catching will be split by Jesus Vega (.242) and Rogelio Del Campo (.223).

The venerable Campos (7-6/3.94) and Rookie of the Year Velazquez (6-4/2.93) anchor a rotation that includes lefty Alejandro Armenta, who was solid third starter (6-8/3.32). Ex-MLBer Francis Beltran (3-1/2.08) had 4 saves last year, but he's gone in 2011 and leaves an unsettled bullpen behind.

The Piratas may reach the playoffs, but lack the batters and relievers to go far in the postseason.

### **2011 CAMPECHE PIRATAS home schedule**

**MAR 20** Yucatan, 26-28 Puebla, 29-31 Tabasco

**APR 12-14** Yucatan, 19-21 Laguna, 22-24 Monclova, 29-May 1 Veracruz

**MAY 10-12** Oaxaca, 20-22 Tabasco, 24-26 Saltillo

**JUN 3-5** Quintana Roo, 14-16 Minatitlan, 21-23 Monterrey, 24-26 Reynosa, 27-29 Mexico City

**JUL 5-6** Minatitlan, 12-13 Quintana Roo, 16-17 Veracruz, 23-24 Oaxaca, 27-28 Yucatan



# CAMPECHE PIRATAS 2011 Roster

No.	PITCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
12	Sergio Aispuro	P	R	R	6' 0"	180	02-28-1990
23	Alejandro Armenta	P	L	L	6' 1"	180	08-25-1978
20	Francisco Campos	P	R	R	5' 11"	185	12-08-1972
36	Ismael Castillo	P	R	R	5' 11"	160	05-19-1983
61	Juan Cerros	P	R	R	6' 1"	200	11-25-1976
44	Miguel Duarte	P	R	R	6' 2"	205	05-26-1977
15	Carlos Elizalde	P	R	R	5' 10"	190	10-22-1977
26	Ignacio Flores	P	R	R	5' 10"	220	11-17-1975
48	Adrian Manzano	P	R	R	6' 0"	198	11-27-1978
66	Renan Martinez	P	L	L	5' 10"	175	04-22-1980
13	Ozzie Mendez	P	L	L	6' 1"	160	04-16-1988
32	Miguel Ruiz	P	R	R	6' 1"	180	05-10-1986
49	Ivan Salas	P	L	L	5' 11"	155	12-30-1990
92	Benjamin Sandoval	P	R	R	5' 10"	195	03-08-1987
38	Hector Velazquez	P	R	R	6' 0"	180	11-26-1988

No.	CATCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
34	Rogelio Del Campo	C	L	R	5' 11"	198	07-25-1986
51	Jesus Vega	C	R	R	5' 11"	187	04-10-1982

No.	INFIELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
3	Alejandro Ahumada	SS	R	R	6' 3"	187	01-20-1979
45	Pedro Diaz	1B	R	R	6' 1"	220	11-08-1978
35	Manuel Lopez	SS	L	R	6' 0"	155	01-07-1987
7	Cesar Osuna	3B	R	R	5' 11"	175	01-29-1990
10	Jesus Rivera	DH	L	R	6' 1"	175	09-20-1977
19	Javier Robles	SS	R	R	6' 1"	205	07-04-1970
40	Roque Sanchez	3B	R	R	6' 1"	205	03-05-1975
23	Emmanuel Valdez	1B	R	R	6' 2"	230	11-23-1978

No.	OUTFIELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
17	Jolbert Cabrera	OF	R	R	6' 2"	205	12-08-1972
18	Dabiel Flores	OF	R	R	6' 0"	155	01-15-1987
11	Luis Matos	OF	R	R	6' 2"	210	10-30-1978
14	Ruben Rivera	CF	R	R	6' 0"	195	11-14-1973
29	Roberto Valencia	RF	L	R	5' 9"	165	07-14-1988

**MANAGER: Marco Antonio Guzman**

**COACHES: Jesus Sommers (others not available)**

## **Campeche, Campeche (home of the Piratas)**



In its early history, Campeche was plagued by attacks from pirates such as Henry Morgan, Jean Lafitte and Francis Drake sailing the Gulf of Mexico, inspiring the city's baseball team's nickname. The city was founded in 1540 by Spaniards on the site of a former Mayan fishing village. It was the most important port on the Yucatan Peninsula during colonial days, a fact not unnoticed by English, French and British buccaneers who wreaked havoc on Campeche several times. After a particularly grisly massacre in 1663, thick walls were built to protect the city, including eight bastions (seven of which can still be visited). Things calmed down a bit after that, and Campeche flourished within the fortifications, although only the Spaniards lived within the walls while the natives were kept outside. The city was recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage site in 1999.

As one might expect, Campeche is full of stately reminders of its prosperous past. Many pastel-colored centuries-old buildings can be enjoyed, as can a lovely botanical garden built around one of the bastions. Like Cancun and Merida, Campeche sits in a tropical climate. Unlike their Liga rivals to the east, however, the city of 212,000 has been relatively untouched by tourism and retains its genuine feel of an old colonial working town.

The Mexican League's Campeche Piratas (or "Pirates") play at 6,000-seat Parque Nelson Barrera, named after the beloved third base great and Campeche manager who tragically died a few years ago when he was struck by a powerline while cleaning debris from his home rooftop after a storm. The field measures 330 feet down both foul lines and 400 feet to straightaway center field.

Campeche finished with a 52-50 record in 2010 but missed the Mexican League playoffs despite compiling more qualifying points over two halves of play than Yucatan, who was awarded the LMB South's fourth and final postseason berth. The resulting controversy helped lead the Liga to scrap the points-based system for a straight won-lost qualification system for the 2011 season.



### **LAGUNA VAQUEROS**

**Calle Juan Gutemberg s/n Col. Centro**

**Torreon, Coahuila, Mexico C.P. 27000**

**PHONE:** (871) 718-5515

**EMAIL:** not available

**WEBSITE:** www.clubvaqueroslaguna.com

**PRESIDENT:** Carlos Gomez del Campo

**GENERAL MANAGER:** Luis Dovalina Flores

**OPERATIONS DIRECTOR:** Oscar Horta Gonzalez

**FIELD MANAGER:** Juan Francisco "Chico" Rodriguez

**BALLPARK:** Estadio de la Revolucion

**CAPACITY:** 8,500

**2010 RECORD:** 45-62

New manager Francisco "Chico" Rodriguez understands how patience works, and he'll need a lot of it in Laguna. This isn't a strong enough team to battle LMB North powers Saltillo, Mexico City, Puebla and Monterrey.

After a traumatic offseason in which he was involved in a fatal car accident in the Dominican Republic, RF Alexis Gomez (.352/16/82 and an LMB-best 37 steals) is gone, but 2B Dionys Cesar is back. The 2009 Liga MVP (.380 with 40 steals that year) will anchor an infield featuring holdover 1B Emmanuel Valdez (.331/16/88), SS Flavio Romero (.333 in 19 games) and newcomer 3B Victor Morcedes (.336/8/81 for Oaxaca in 2010). Vet 2B-SS Christian Herrera (.300/5/41) should get increased playing time. The outfield is not strong. LF Ivan Araujo (.329/8/65) is competent at best while 20-year-old CF Ramon Ramirez (.294) needs to mature fast. Ex-MLB C Miguel Oleda (.235) comes from Mexico City.

Laguna's pitching was horrible in 2010 with a 6.55 team ERA, and will be a priority for manager Rodriguez. Esteban Yan (12-3/3.77) started and relieved for Mexico City last year and should top the rotation. Veteran righty Juan Delgadillo was an All-Star in 2010 but only got in 11 starts before being shut down by injury with a 5-1 record. Dario Veras and his 22 saves will be gone in 2011, but Juan Oyervidez had 11 saves himself and is the likely closer.

Rodriguez managed the Chihuahua Dorados to a playoff berth last year and was hired by Laguna after the Dorados shut down for 2011. He'll have a tough time winning in a very competitive division made tougher by the addition of Puebla.

### **2011 LAGUNA VAQUEROS home schedule**

**MAR** 19 Reynosa, 25-27 Reynosa

**APR** 1-3 Saltillo, 12-14 Minatitlan, 15-17 Veracruz, 26-28 Oaxaca, 29-May 1 Puebla

**MAY** 2-4 Monclova, 10-12 Monterrey, 17-19 Mexico City, 24-26 Quintana Roo

**JUN** 7-9 Campeche, 10-12 Tabasco, 24-26 Monclova, 28-30 Yucatan

**JUL** 9-10 Puebla, 14-15 Reynosa, 16-17 Mexico City, 19-20 Saltillo, 25-26 Monterrey

# LAGUNA VAQUEROS 2011 Roster

No.	PITCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
18	Matias Carrillo, Jr.	P	L	L	6' 3"	224	12-13-1986
28	Juan Delgadillo	P	R	R	5' 10"	163	11-11-1982
96	David Dominguez	P	R	R	6' 1"	220	10-20-1978
34	Oscar Felix	P	L	L	5'6"	192	12-08-1991
32	Julian Figueroa	P	L	R	5' 11"	231	11-15-1986
39	Ramon Antonio Garcia	P	R	R	6' 1"	205	01-23-1979
7	Carlos Gutierrez	P	R	R	5' 11"	155	11-23-1986
38	Demetrio Gutierrez	P	L	L	6' 2"	187	02-14-1990
37	Juan Mateo	P	R	R	6' 2"	235	12-17-1982
46	Leo Medrano	P	R	R	6' 1"	185	01-18-1983
48	Jose Oyervidez	P	R	R	5' 11"	195	02-18-1982
34	Daniel Perez	P	L	L	6'0"	176	09-21-1990
33	Sergio Sanchez	P	L	L	6' 0"	192	11-16-1986
41	Esteban Yan	P	R	R	6' 4"	255	06-22-1975
52	Baudel Zambrano	P	R	R	5' 11"	200	07-04-1982

No.	CATCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
16	Manny Del Campo	C	R	R	5' 10"	200	05-11-1983
35	Miguel Ojeda	C	R	R	6' 1"	230	01-29-1975

No.	INFIELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
4	Dionys Cesar	2B	S	R	6' 1"	194	09-27-1976
18	Christian Herrera	2B	R	R	5' 11"	180	04-09-1982
17	Julian Laurean	2B	R	R	5' 10"	185	03-26-1984
31	Lorenzo Mercado	1B	S	R	6' 0"	160	06-25-1982
2	Victor Mercedes	3B	S	R	5' 11"	190	04-15-1979
20	Flavio Romero	2B	L	R	5' 10"	165	08-01-1979
53	Robert Saucedo	1B	R	R	5' 11"	260	09-26-1975
23	Emmanuel Valdez	1B	R	R	6' 2"	230	11-23-1978

No.	OUTFIELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
29	Ivan Araujo	LF	R	R	5' 11"	185	01-29-1984
77	Santiago Gonzalez	OF	R	R	5' 4"	175	07-25-1983
38	Fernando Martinez	OF	R	R	6'3"	209	08-12-1986
70	Ramon Ramirez	OF	R	R	5' 9"	165	09-13-1990
5	Jesus Romo	LF	L	L	6' 2"	200	11-19-1983

**MANAGER: Francisco "Chico" Rodriguez**

**COACHES: Jesus Arredondo, Salome Barojas, Adolfo Camacho, Cesar Diaz, Victor Saucedo**



## **Torreon, Coahuila/Gomez Palacios, Durango (home of the Laguna Vaqueros)**



The cities of Torreon, Coahuila and Gomez Palacio, Durango, otherwise known as Laguna, are home of the LMB Vaqueros. Laguna consists of about 1.3 million residents, including a workforce of nearly 400,000 people mostly in industry and commerce. The two cities and states are separated geographically by the Rio Nazas. The climate is dry and warm, since Laguna is located on a basin within the Chihuahua Desert. Ironically, the two lagoons the region was named after have both dried up.

Torreon, a city of 1.1 million people where the Vaqueros actually play their home games, was named after a large tower built by Don Leonardo Zuluaga in 1850 to watch over the Rio Nazas. Across the river, the city of Gomez Palacio has about 300,000 residents. The Laguna region was devastated by the heavy fighting in the Revolution of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, but has since become a notable nationwide center for cotton, livestock, mining and wine.

Culturally, there are 11 universities and technical colleges in the Laguna area, and the Absalom Music Center is a well-respected musical academy. Also, the Teatro Isauro Martinez is considered one of the most beautiful theaters in the country. There are a number of local landmarks, including the Cristo de las Noas, the third-tallest statue of Christ in Latin America. Two of the most popular events in Laguna are the September Cotton Fair, which features an assortment of cultural events including music and bullfighting, and the Laguna DrumFest, which brings some of the best drummers from Mexico and abroad together at the Teatro Nazas for two days of percussion in October.

Laguna has a long history of baseball in the Mexican League, with the Union Laguna team winning Liga pennants in 1942 (under Hall of Fame player-manager Martin Dihigo) and 1950. The 2010 edition of the Vaqueros finished 45-62 in the regular season and failed to qualify for the playoffs. For a while, the team played its home games at the former Colt Stadium, which served Houston's National League team between 1962 and 1964 before the Astrodome was completed. Colt Stadium sat unused before the grandstands were broken down and moved in sections to Gomez Palacio in 1970 after the Laguna team bought the remnants of the ballpark for \$100,000. Presently, the Vaqueros play their home games in Torreon's 12,000-seat Estadio Revolucion.



### **MEXICO CITY DIABLOS ROJOS**

**Manuel M. Ponce 87 1er piso, Col. Guadalupe Inn, Del. Alvaro Obregon**

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**PRESIDENT:** Roberto Mansur Galan

**GENERAL MANAGER:** Roberto Castellon

**FIELD MANAGER:** Max Olivares

**BALLPARK:** Foro Sol

**CAPACITY:** 26,000

**2010 RECORD:** 64-40

The Diablos had another great regular season, finishing with the best record in the LMB North, but lost in the first playoff round to Saltillo after leading 3 games to 0. Owner Alfredo Harp Helu expects Liga pennants to fly at Foro Sol. Thus, pressure is on manager Mako Olivares in 2011 to cop a title.

Olivares' team seems to have the talent. Most players are back from a team that led the league in hitting (.322), homers (110) and RBIs (617) last summer. 1Bs Japhet Amador and Mario Valdez combined to hit .365 with 23 homers and 102 ribbies, Returning OFs Mario Valenzuela and Ivan Terrazas both hit over .326 (as did newcomer Leo Heras for Reynosa) and Geronimo Gil (.330) gives Mexico City one of the best catchers in the LMB. Add OF Luis Terrero (who hit .345 for Laguna in 2009) and the Diablos can put nine .300+ hitters in their lineup. Simply out, Mexico City is loaded.

Mexico City led the Liga with 11 shutouts, but their pitching needed improvement. Esteban Yan (12-3/3.77) is gone to Laguna but Javier Martinez (11-2/3.31) was solid in 2010 while Elmer Dessens returns from MLB. Marco Quevedo (3-5/5.79) had a good winter for Obregon's Caribbean Series champs, but he'll have to step things up in Foro Sol this summer. The bullpen is unsettled, but Jean Machi had 23 saves for AAA Indianapolis last year and could end up the closer in Mexico City.

Much is expected of the Diablos every year and nothing will be different in 2011. This is a team capable of pounding their way to the Mexican League pennant.

### **2011 MEXICO CITY DIABLOS ROJOS home schedule**

**MAR 19** Quintana Roo, 29-31 Laguna

**APR 4-6** Campeche, 15-17 Saltillo, 22-24 Minatitlan, 29-May 1 Monterrey

**MAY 9-11** Yucatan, 13-15 Quintana Roo, 20-22 Monclova, 24-26 Tabasco

**JUN 3-5** Saltillo, 7-9 Veracruz, 14-16 Reynosa, 20-22 Oaxaca, 24-26 Puebla

**JUL 2-3** Monclova, 4-5 Laguna, 9-10 Reynosa, 23-24 Monterrey, 25-26 Puebla



# MEXICO CITY DIABLOS ROJOS 2011 Roster

No.	PITCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
46	Geraldo Bueno	P	R	R	6' 0"	215	01-21-1981
	Federico Castaneda	P	R	R	6'3"	187	01-26-1984
19	Jorge Castillo	P	L	L	5' 11"	175	11-03-1981
18	Irwin Delgado	P	L	L	5' 9"	176	06-15-1989
45	Elmer Dessens	P	R	R	5' 11"	200	01-13-1971
43	Marco Duarte	P	R	R	6' 2"	185	08-19-1986
39	Franklyn German	P	R	R	6'7"	250	01-20-1980
56	Orlando Lara	P	L	L	5' 10"	185	05-20-1985
48	Jean Machi	P	R	R	6'0"	250	02-01-1982
30	Marco Quevedo	P	R	R	5' 8"	190	08-08-1986
25	Roberto Ramirez	P	L	L	5' 11"	185	08-17-1972
36	David Reyes	P	R	R	6' 0"	185	04-12-1991
47	Salvador Robles	P	L	L	5' 10"	205	12-05-1985
64	Juan Sandoval	P	R	R	6' 2"	170	01-13-1981
35	Martin Sotelo	P	R	R	6' 2"	190	04-14-1986
53	Edward Valdez	P	R	R	6' 1"	190	02-08-1980

No.	CATCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
12	Geronimo Gil	C	R	R	6' 3"	240	08-07-1975
42	Gabriel Gutierrez	C	R	R	5' 11"	190	11-24-1983
23	Ivan Villaescusa	C	S	R	6' 2"	210	10-13-1986

No.	INFIELERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
29	Japhet Amador	1B	R	R	6'4"	220	01-19-1987
34	Emmanuel Avila	2B	L	R	6'0"	165	11-26-1988
51	Jose Castillo	3B	R	R	6'1"	210	03-19-1981
60	Juan Carlos Gamboa	SS	L	R	5' 7"	152	04-18-1991
3	Jose Luis Sandoval	SS	R	R	5' 9"	175	08-25-1969
24	Mario Valdez	1B	L	L	5' 11"	190	11-19-1974
5	Carlos Valencia	2B	R	R	5' 10"	200	10-20-1979
59	Horacio Vasquez	IF	R	R	5' 10"	174	03-19-1986

No.	OUTFIELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
40	Victor Bojorquez	LF	R	R	6' 1"	200	01-31-1974
8	Leo Heras	OF	L	R	5' 8"	155	05-29-1990
4	Ivan Terrazas	RF	L	R	5' 11"	170	11-11-1983
31	Luis Terrero	OF	R	R	6' 3"	205	05-18-1980
27	Mario Valenzuela	RF	R	R	5' 11"	209	03-10-1977

**MANAGER: Max "Mako" Olivares**

**COACHES: Donald Canedo, Hector Estrada, Maximino Leon, Nathanael Reyes, Sergio Robles**

## **Mexico City, D.F. (home of the Diablos Rojos)**



Originally called Tenochtitlan, Mexico City was the capital of the Aztec nation when it was found by Spanish conquistadores nearly 200 years after natives began building what became a beautiful city of 300,000 built on an island in the middle of a lake. When Hernando Cortes and his band of soldiers came upon Tenochtitlan after their 1519 arrival on Mexico's east coast, they found a city that was easily equal in scope to almost any place in Europe at that time. Although Cortes' soldiers were badly outnumbered, the Aztec emperor Moctezuma protected him because he thought the fair-skinned, bearded Cortez was the reincarnation of the god Cuetzalcoatl returning to fulfill ancient prophecies. Cortes repaid this hospitality by kidnapping the emperor, attacking a number of Aztec temples and placing Christian chapels alongside their altars. Eventually the natives rebelled, killing Moctezuma and driving Cortes' forces from the city. The Spaniards regrouped and took the city for good in August 1521.

Since then, Mexico City, Distrito Federal has evolved into one of the world's leading urban areas, with over 25,000,000 residents. It is the capital of Mexico, as well as the nation's business hub and media center. There are too many places worth visiting in Mexico City to list, but the "can't miss" list includes the Palacio de Bellas Artes, one of the world's most beautiful theaters; the Catedral Metropolitana, a massive yet ornate church that took 250 years to finish; the Bosque de Chapultepec park on the city's west side featuring lakes, woods, lawns, a zoo, amusement park and museums; and the Palacio Nacional, a 17<sup>th</sup> century edifice housing the President's office, the national archives, the federal treasury, and awesome courtyard murals painted by Mexico's most famous artist, Diego Rivera, that give details of national history.

Mexico City is also a center of baseball in the country as home to both the Liga Mexicana offices and the Mexico City Diablos Rojos, who began in 1940. The Red Devils shared Mexico City for decades with the Tigres before the latter moved away in the 1990s. The Diablos play at the 25,000-seat Foro Sol, Mexico's second-largest ballpark but originally built for concerts, not baseball. A new ballpark is on the drawing board. The Diablos have won 15 Mexican League pennants since 1956, most recently in 2008.



## **MINATITLAN PETROLEROS**

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**WEBSITE: www.petrolosdeminatitlan.com.mx**

**PRESIDENT: Ranulfo Marquez Hernandez**

**GENERAL MANAGER: Carlos Suarez Calero**

**FIELD MANAGER: Victor Meza**

**BALLPARK: Estadio 18 de Marzo de 1938**

**CAPACITY: 7,500**

**2010 RECORD: 44-60**

The Petroleros were not one of the more interesting teams in the Mexican League last season, finishing 16 games under .500 and drawing just 74,529 fans in 53 games. However, under new manager Victor "El Loco" Meza, things in Minatitlan will be anything but boring in 2011. Meza, a longtime star in the Cuban National Series, was as renowned for his flamboyance and temper as for his playing ability. He won't have an easy time lighting a fire under this LMB South team, though.

Minatitlan hit .298 as a team to finish eighth in that category, but they didn't score many runs. 1B Carlos Rivera (.373/16/82) is the top returning batter, while CF Frank Diaz (.338/13/66) gives strong support and SS Rolando Acosta (.327/7/50) is one of Mexico's most underrated infielders. The Petros will be helped if OF Amaury Cazana (.380 in 29 games) is able to play for a full season and 20-year pro vet DH Sharnol Adriana was a Liga star in the 2000's who can still swing a bat.

Minatitlan pitchers had a 5.63 ERA in 2010. Enrique Quintanilla (7-8/4.17) and Francisco Cordova (7-6/4.67) head the rotation and reliever Isidro Marquez (3-3/3.61/17 saves) broke Ramon Arano's Liga record of 812 games pitched last June, but most Petros pitchers were of the "duck-and-cover" variety.

At least Meza's players won't dare sleepwalk through games. In Minatitlan, that's progress.

### **2011 MINATITLAN PETROLEROS home schedule**

**MAR 20** Tabasco, 22-24 Veracruz

**APR 1-3** Puebla, 5-7 Monterrey, 8-10 Reynosa, 19-21 Saltillo, 26-28 Campeche

**MAY 3-5** Quintana Roo, 6-8 Yucatan, 10-12 Veracruz, 17-19 Oaxaca, 31-Jun 2 Laguna

**JUN 3-5** Monclova, 10-12 Mexico City, 17-19 Tabasco,

**JUL 2-3** Tabasco, 19-20 Campeche, 21-22 Quintana Roo, 23-24 Yucatan, 27-28 Oaxaca

# MINATITLAN PETROLEROS 2011 Roster

No.	PITCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
45	Juan Jesus Alvarez	P	R	R	6' 4"	220	02-13-1966
35	Manuel Baez	P	R	R	6' 0"	209	05-20-1988
23	Francisco Cordova	P	R	R	5' 10"	191	04-26-1972
30	Carlos Garcia	P	L	R	5'9"	194	05-25-1988
56	Martin Gomez	P	R	R	6'1"	220	04-26-1976
64	Heberto Gonzalez	P	R	R	6' 1"	170	08-21-1982
19	Hector Gonzalez	P	R	R	6' 0"	190	09-15-1987
33	Isidro Marquez	P	R	R	5' 11"	220	05-15-1965
63	Leonardo Munoz	P	L	L	5' 11"	180	04-02-1975
17	Enrique Quintanilla	P	R	R	5' 11"	190	10-16-1976
34	Alejandro Rios	P	R	R	6'1"	195	07-28-1979
91	Luis Rodriguez	P	R	R	5' 9"	198	09-15-1988
22	Noe Romo	P	L	L	5' 11"	190	09-21-1979
15	Rafael Servin	P	R	R	6' 0"	152	04-02-1989
25	Tomas Solis	P	L	L	5' 9"	135	10-02-1982
8	Esteban Teran	P	R	R	6'0"	181	09-24-1987

No.	CATCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
38	Carlos Rodriguez	C	R	R	6' 2"	215	04-24-1977
61	Raul Rodriguez	C	R	R	5' 9"	185	04-28-1985
77	Eduardo Santos	C	R	R	5' 8"	160	07-11-1992

NO.	INFIELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
12	Sharnol Adriana	IF	R	R	5' 10"	205	11-13-1970
13	Rolando Acosta	SS	R	R	5'11"	170	04-13-1983
27	Ivan Bellazetin	2B	R	R	5' 8"	148	09-15-1986
2	Paul Leon	2B	R	R	5' 7"	163	07-28-1988
7	Adelaido Martinez	2B	R	R	5' 7"	163	12-12-1988
44	Carlos Rivera	1B	L	L	5' 11"	230	06-10-1978
39	Jesus Valenzuela	IF	R	R	5' 6"	200	01-30-1989
5	Christian Zazueta	3B	R	R	6' 2"	172	10-20-1984

No.	OUTFIELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
47	Frank Diaz	CF	R	R	6' 0"	211	10-06-1983
41	Amaury Cazana	LF	R	R	6'1"	210	09-02-1978
20	Teodoro Dominguez	OF	L	L	5' 9"	182	10-05-1988
55	Luis Fonseca	OF	R	R	6' 3"	196	09-20-1984
16	Ramon Valdez	OF	L	L	5' 8"	172	05-16-1977

**MANAGER: Victor Meza**

**COACHES: Edgar Castro, Jose Angel Chavez, Victor Figueroa, Jose Riveira, Felix Tejeda**

## **Minatitlán, Veracruz (home of the Petroleros)**



Minatitlán, home of the LMB Petroleros, is in the southeastern part of the state of Veracruz. It is one of the smallest cities in Mexican League baseball. In 2005, the metropolitan area had a population of 152,907. The Minatitlán municipality has an area of nearly 1,600 square miles and includes many small outlying communities.

Much of the city sits on reclaimed marshlands, and many new homes built on this reclaimed land have been known to sink several feet before settling. Much of the surrounding undeveloped land is also marshy, especially toward the northeast en route to Coatzacoalcas. There is a large Zapotec Indian population in Minatitlán. They are easily recognizable in their traditional Zapotec clothing. Most speak Spanish, but their traditional Zapotec language is still in common usage among them.

One of Mexico's six oil-refining facilities is located in Minatitlán. The refining complex processes about 300,000 barrels a day and produces diesel, fuel oil, and gasoline. The local economy basically depends on the petroleum industry, but corn, fruits, sugar, and rice are also cultivated in the area.

Culturally, Minatitlán is home to a religious Candlemas festival in early February; a carnival running between the end of February and early May features folk music and dancing, cockfighting, horse racing and fireworks; a celebration of the so-called "Petroleum Expropriation" in late May centers on music, sports and fireworks; while similar events take place during the annual San Juan Bautista Festival on June 24.

The Minatitlán Petroleros have an interesting history. The team spent several years in Cancun as the Langosteros. The Lobstermen were one of the less successful Mexican League franchises, advancing to the Southern Zone Championship Series just once (in 1997). The damage Hurricane Wilma wreaked on the ballpark in Cancun after the 2005 season forced the team to move to Poza Rica and renamed the Petroleros. However, the team and city had a falling out on their ballpark lease, resulting in the team moving to Cordoba in the midst of the 2006 season and being renamed the Cafeteros. After finishing the schedule, the club once again re-settled in Minatitlán for the 2007 season and reclaimed the Petroleros nickname.

The Petros play in the 7,500-seat Parque 18 de Marzo de 1938, but are not known for filling it.





### **MONCLOVA ACEREROS**

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WEBSITE: [www.acereros.com.mx](http://www.acereros.com.mx)

DIRECTOR GENERAL: Donaciano Garza Gutierrez

GENERAL MANAGER: Victor Favela Lopez

FIELD MANAGER: Gerardo Sanchez

BALLPARK: Estadio Monclova

CAPACITY: 11,000

2010 RECORD: 52-50

Which Monclova Acereros team will we see in 2011? Monclova's first-half club that went 20-33 and finished one game out of last place in the LMB North? Or the Steelers side who battled to a 33-19 record and came in 2.5 games behind second half-winning Mexico City?

The Acereros are an intriguing team, with a good number of solid veterans sprinkled through the lineup. 1B Pedro Valdes (.324/16/68) is the best of a middling batting order. 3B Efren Espinosa is back from a .318/12/50 season, LF Leo Arauz (.305/6/53) has his best years behind him but is still fairly productive, while C Saul Soto (.301/9/45), 1B/OF Abraham Valencia (.291/12/57 for Campeche) and 2B Hector Garanzuay (.248/6/47) are all decent batsmen. Monclova is capable of putting out a good lineup, although a key will be whether second-year OF Franky Busani (.307 in 39 games) can provide the kind of power he exhibited playing prep and college ball at schools in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

The Monclova starters are workmanlike: Nerio Rodriguez (9-7/4.13) is 40 but still gets strikeouts (88 in 100 innings), Alfredo Garcia (8-8/3.86) has won 42 Liga games since 2006, Oswaldo Verdugo (6-7/5.50) was 29-6 in three years for Yucatan before a tough 2010 and Jasiel Acosta (9-5/4.79) is a decent lefty. The bullpen is shaky without a proven closer, though, and Monclova could lose their share of games in the late innings this year.

Manager Gerardo Sanchez' Acereros could surprise and slip into the playoffs, but it's not likely.

### **2011 MONCLOVA ACEREROS home schedule**

**MAR** 19 Saltillo, 25-27 Monterrey

**APR** 1-3 Mexico City, 12-14 Veracruz, 15-17 Minatitlan, 26-28 Puebla, 29-May 1 Oaxaca

**MAY** 6-8 Laguna, 10-12 Reynosa, 16-18 Saltillo, 24-26 Yucatan

**JUN** 7-9 Tabasco, 10-12 Campeche, 21-23 Laguna, 28-30 Quintana Roo

**JUL** 4-5 Saltillo, 7-8 Puebla, 14-15 Monterrey, 18-19 Mexico City, 25-26 Reynosa



# MONCLOVA ACEREROS 2011 Roster

No.	PITCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
23	Jasiel Acosta	P	L	L	6' 1"	211	07-30-1982
52	Jose Cabrera	P	R	R	6' 0"	205	03-24-1972
22	Edwin Contreras	P	R	R	6' 2"	165	09-17-1988
47	Ivan Cordova	P	R	R	6' 1"	220	06-08-1984
42	Gerardo Esparza	P	R	R	5' 10"	210	12-12-1987
72	Gerardo Estrada	P	L	L	5' 10"	202	07-03-1989
27	Alfredo Garcia	P	R	R	6' 3"	180	06-11-1974
32	Irving Jimenez	P	L	R	5' 7"	163	11-16-1989
15	Daniel Lopez	P	R	R	6' 0"	172	08-31-1986
1	Juan Noriega	P	R	R	5' 7"	145	09-03-1990
51	Angel Adrian Ramirez	P	L	L	5' 6"	185	10-01-1983
34	Jesus Rodriguez	P	R	R	6' 0"	180	09-13-1985
26	Nerio Rodriguez	P	R	R	6' 1"	220	03-04-1971
33	Edwin Tellez	P	R	R	6' 0"	182	08-21-1991
30	Oswaldo Verdugo	P	R	R	6' 1"	198	04-04-1981
50	Saul Villegas	P	R	R	5' 11"	172	04-26-1992

No	CATCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
5	Saul Soto	C	R	R	6' 4"	245	08-11-1978

No.	INFIELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
17	Jesus Arredondo	2B	L	R	5' 9"	190	03-10-1972
54	Jose Francisco Cordova	DH	R	R	5' 11"	190	06-01-1984
9	Efren Espinoza	3B	R	R	6' 1"	205	09-12-1980
6	Hector Garanzuay	2B	S	L	5' 9"	175	10-06-1980
14	Antonio Lamas	SS	R	R	5' 9"	165	12-30-1989
12	Issmael Salas	3B	R	R	5' 9"	200	07-25-1982
13	Jose Salazar	SS	L	R	5' 10"	170	12-30-1983
39	Pedro Valdes	1B	L	L	6' 1"	205	06-29-1973
45	Abraham Valencia	1B	R	R	5' 11"	185	02-27-1980

No	OUTFIELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
19	Leo Arauz	LF	S	R	5' 10"	190	01-18-1977
77	Franky Busani	OF	R	R	6' 0"	180	11-12-1986
24	Freddy Guzman	OF	S	R	5' 10"	165	01-20-1981
29	Fernando Rios	OF	R	R	6' 0"	210	12-15-1978
8	Enrique Trujillo	OF	R	R	6' 1"	176	06-15-1987

**MANAGER: Gerardo "Polvorita" Sanchez**

**COACHES: Victor Hugo Monroy, Ignacio Rodriguez, Oscar Romero, Gilberto Rondon**

## **Monclova, Coahuila (home of the Acereros)**



Monclova's recorded history begins with the first of a number of fitful attempts to establish a town under Spanish rule, first under Don Alberto of Canto in 1577. It was only on the seventh attempt that a permanent town was finally created in 1689. It was granted the title of "city" in 1811 and was actually the state capital of both Coahuila and Texas in 1833. The war against the United States of the 1840s gave Texas and several other present-day states to the USA as American troops occupied Monclova (which was initially an agricultural town) in 1846.

However, like most of the northern cities of the Mexican League, Monclova has become an industrial center that is not geared towards tourism at all. As one might expect of a place whose team name translates to "Steelers," Monclova is one of the leading steel-producing cities in the Western Hemisphere. With just under 200,000 residents, it is one of the smallest cities in the Liga.

Visitors to Monclova will have to look past the factories to find the two Xochipilli Parks that cover 108 acres in town, and there are also golf courses, museums, discos and bowling alleys for recreational opportunities. Again, this is a city geared towards production, not tourists, so don't expect the widest of choices for entertainment.

Monclova is home to the Mexican League's Acereros (or "Steelers"), who finished the 2010 season with a 53-52 record and missed the playoffs. The Acereros play their home games at the 11,000-seat Estadio Monclova, where attendance is usually in the middle of the LMB pack.

The Acereros franchise dates back to 1974, when the Sabinas Piratas moved to Monclova to become the Coahuila Mineros. The team name was changed to Monclova Acereros in the early 1980s. The Steelers have never won a Liga pennant but they've become one of the stronger teams in the circuit at the box office, where they are annually among the leaders in attendance.



## **MONTERREY SULTANES**

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**PRESIDENT:** Jose Maiz Garcia

**GENERAL MANAGER:** Roberto Magdaleno Ramirez

**FIELD MANAGER:** Enrique "Che" Reyes

**BALLPARK:** Estadio Monterrey

**CAPACITY:** 27,000

**2010 RECORD:** 58-48

An already good Monterrey team got better in the offseason by bringing in Karim Garcia in to Monterrey. Garcia was a huge star in Korea the past few seasons, and the ex-NLBer will combine with RF Luis Alfonso Garcia (.338/21/86), LF Edgar Quintero (.320/13/65), 3B Agustin Murillo (.293/7/48) and CF Chris Roberson (.306/12/46 with 21 steals) to give the Sultanes a potentially lethal lineup behind one of the best pitching staffs in the league. Getting rebound years from Murillo and SS Heber Gomez (.279/2/47) is critical. The 6'3" 220-pound Gomez has a well-deserved reputation as a clutch player.

Monterrey didn't stop with the power boost. The Sultanes added P Dan Serafini (5-2/3.84 for Los Mochis and 4 games for Obregon in CS last winter) and Rosman Garcia (6-8/3.32 for Nuevo Laredo in 2010 plus a 5IP/1ER start for Anzoategui in CS) to a staff that already included Walter Silva (7-3/4.45) and Sergio Mora (6-6/4.92). Manager Che Reyes may not have a star-studded starting rotation, but it should be one of the Mexican League's most consistent. The bullpen is fair to middling. Adrian Ramirez (5-4/4.90) has been mainly a starter, but the hard-throwing righty may relieve to fill a void as closer.

The Sultanes join Mexico City and Puebla as prime threats to unseat Saltillo in the LMB North this year. Monterrey may well have the best starting rotation in the North in 2011, and their daily batting order has few weaknesses. A strong year from Karim Garcia could be the difference to an LMB Finals berth and an early exit from the playoffs.

### **2011 MONTERREY SULTANES home schedule**

**MAR** 20 Puebla, 22-24 Laguna, 28-29\*-31 Quintana Roo

**APR** 1-3 Yucatan, 12-14 Oaxaca, 22-24 Reynosa, 26-28 Saltillo

**MAY** 3-5 Campeche, 6-8 Tabasco, 13-15 Monclova, 24-26 Minatitlan

**JUN** 3-5 Puebla, 10-12 Reynosa, 17-19 Mexico City, 28-30 Veracruz

**JUL** 7-8 Mexico City, 9-10 Saltillo, 11-12 Laguna, 18-19 Puebla, 27-28 Monclova

*\*Game played in Phoenix, Arizona*

## MONTERREY SULTANES 2011 roster

No	PITCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
62	Hugo Castellanos	P	R	R	6' 4"	225	06-30-1980
	Rosman Garcia	P	R	R	6' 2"	215	01-03-1979
71	Antonio Garzon	P	L	L	5' 9"	179	03-07-1985
55	Sergio Lizarraga	P	R	R	6' 4"	195	07-23-1981
46	Pablo Menchaca	P	R	R	6' 4"	225	11-28-1987
87	Jose Meraz	P	L	L	6' 1"	187	12-05-1987
96	Sergio Mora	P	R	R	5' 11"	165	09-18-1980
80	Adrian C. Ramirez	P	R	R	6' 0"	190	05-15-1988
3	Raul Rodriguez	P	L	L	6' 0"	194	07-20-1968
51	Edwin Salas	P	R	R	5' 9"	185	08-20-1991
14	Humberto Sanchez	P	R	R	6' 6"	270	05-28-1983
28	Dan Serafini	P	B	L	6' 1"	190	01-25-1974
39	Walter Silva	P	R	R	6' 1"	190	01-04-1977
36	Salvador Valdez	P	R	R	6' 3"	201	05-08-1983
72	Marcos Zavala	P	L	L	6' 0"	165	11-26-1977

No	CATCHER	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
31	Adan Amezcua	C	R	R	6' 3"	198	03-09-1974
90	Luis Juarez	C	R	R	5' 8"	176	02-06-1990

No	INFELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
24	Humberto Cota	DH	R	R	5' 11"	225	02-07-1979
44	Erubiel Durazo	1B	L	L	6' 3"	240	01-23-1975
77	Heber Gomez	SS	R	R	6' 3"	220	11-03-1977
37	Daniel Hinojosa	2B	R	L	5' 10"	170	07-15-1984
59	Baltazar Lopez	1B	L	L	6' 1"	185	11-22-1983
50	Agustin Murillo	3B	R	R	6' 3"	195	05-05-1982
12	Carlos Orrantia	2B	R	R	6' 0"	210	12-26-1981
4	Ramon Rios	2B	R	R	5' 10"	200	03-04-1988

No	OUTFIELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
95	Karim Garcia	RF	L	L	6' 0"	210	10-29-1975
25	Lorenzo Buelna	OF	R	R	5' 11"	175	01-24-1980
18	Luis Alfonso Garcia	OF	R	R	6' 4"	180	05-11-1978
47	Sergio Perez	OF	S	R	6' 0"	180	10-27-1989
8	Edgar Quintero	LF	L	L	6' 0"	211	08-09-1977
42	Chris Roberson	CF	S	R	6' 2"	180	08-23-1979

**MANAGER:** Enrique "Che" Reyes

**COACHES:** Miguel Flores, Arturo Gonzalez, Sid Monge, Leo Rodriguez Jr.

## **Monterrey, Nuevo Leon (home of the Sultanes)**



Monterrey is the capital of the state of Nuevo Leon, the leading city in northern Mexico and the industrial center of the nation. Monterrey was founded in 1596 by Diego de Montemayor, but it wasn't until after the War of Independence in the 1820's that it started blossoming as an important business center. Present-day Monterrey is home to nearly four million residents, and is Mexico's third-largest city behind Mexico City and Guadalajara.

While many visitors will not be impressed by the factories, traffic and smog they'll encounter here, Monterrey's city center is actually quite pleasant, with a combination of colonial elegance and modern architecture and statues. The heart of Monterrey, many say, lies in the Plaza Zaragosa (also known as the "Macroplaza"), which was created by the demolition of six complete city blocks in downtown Monterrey. The crown jewel of the Macroplaza is the Museo de Arte Contemporaneo, or MARCO, a museum that is considered a "don't-miss" experience for art lovers visiting Monterrey. While not as beautiful on an overall basis as the more colonial cities in Mexico's south, Monterrey has much to offer those willing to look past the industrial congestion that creates the city's wealth.

Home to three past Little League World Series champions, Monterrey is also perhaps the center of Mexican baseball. It is home of the Salon de la Fama, the Mexican Baseball Hall of Fame, which is located at the Cuauhtemoc Brewery grounds. The Salon was built in 1971. Also in the area is the Mexican Baseball Academy, where all 16 LMB teams share funding for the 100 young domestic athletes hoping to develop into pro ballplayers. The complex consists of 56 dorm rooms, four baseball fields, four batting cages, a computer room, a weight room, an infirmary and a plaza where players can congregate. The Academia runs an eight-team rookie league during the winter.

The Monterrey Sultanes are one of the Mexican League's flagship franchises, and have won nine Liga championships since their founding in 1939 (although the team failed to reach the playoffs in 2009 just two years after winning their last pennant). The Sultanes are usually near the top of the LMB in attendance playing home games in Mexico's largest ballpark, the 27,000-seat Estadio de Beisbol Monterrey. It is the only ballpark in Mexico to have hosted Major League Baseball regular season games (in 1996 and 1999).



## **OAXACA GUERREROS**

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**EMAIL:** guerreros@infosel.net.mx  
**WEBSITE:** www.guerrerosdeoaxaca.com.mx  
**PRESIDENT:** Vicente Perez Avello Villa  
**GENERAL MANAGER:** Guillermo Rodriguez Velazquez  
**FIELD MANAGER:** Marco Antonio Vazquez  
**BALLPARK:** Estadio Eduardo Vasconcelos  
**CAPACITY:** 7,200  
**2010 RECORD:** 60-45

It isn't easy being a ballplayer in Oaxaca. The city itself is more than nice enough to call home for a season, but the Guerreros overcame nearly having to move or disband (a workers strike threatened to close Oaxaca's ballpark during the season) to finish 15 games over .500 and give a good showing in the playoffs before losing to Puebla in the LMB South finals. Then they lost their manager in the offseason. Marco Antonio Vazquez replaces Eddie Diaz as manager (Diaz will scout full-time for Tampa Bay in 2011) and takes over a decent team, including an offense that hit .313 with little power and a pitching staff that tossed seven shutouts but allowed too many runners. Lots of skippers have started with less.

Guerreros RF Christian Quintero (.317/12/77) led with only a dozen dingers but five players had 22 or more doubles. C Erick Rodriguez (.327/10/61) may be the Liga's best backstop, underrated 2B Jamie Brena (.345) has hit .330 or better five of the last six years and veteran 3B Sergio Gastelum (.302/3/64) comes from Laguna to solidify the infield. 1B Kevin Barker (.291/12/48 for Veracruz in 2010) can reach the fences but Oaxaca won't hit many homers. Instead, they'll chip away at pitchers.

Oaxaca's pitching is not their strength. Rodolfo Gonzalez (10-6/4.89), Rolando Valdez (10-4/5.87) and Sergio Velazquez (9-4/4.41) combined for 29 wins but had a collective ERA between them of 5.02. Sort of says it all right there and now Gonzalez is gone. The addition of former Caribbean Series MVP Francisco Butto will strengthen the bullpen and get his share of saves if he's handed a late lead.

The Guerreros will qualify for the playoffs on the basis of their hitting, but likely fall just shy of reaching the LMB Finals because of their lack of pitching.

### **2011 OAXACA GUERREROS home schedule**

**MAR 20** Veracruz, 22-24 Campeche, 29-31 Minatitlan

**APR 9-10** Puebla, 15-17 Reynosa, 22-24 Yucatan

**MAY 2-4** Mexico City, 6-8 Saltillo, 13-15 Tabasco, 20-22 Veracruz, 30-Jun 1 Monterrey

**JUN 7-9** Quintana Roo, 14-16 Laguna, 17-19 Monclova, 29-30 Puebla

**JUL 7-9** Tabasco, 9-10 Campeche, 14-15 Minatitlan, 16-17 Yucatan, 18-19 Quintana Roo, 25-26 Veracruz



# OAXACA GUERREROS 2011 Roster

No.	PITCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
18	Rodolfo Aguilar	P	L	L	5' 9"	189	07-18-1989
48	Francisco Butto	P	R	R	6' 1"	200	05-11-1980
23	Hugo Gutierrez	P	R	R	6' 4"	200	12-12-1990
82	Victor Moreno	P	R	R	6' 0"	168	12-22-1982
22	Heriberto Rodriguez	P	R	R	6' 6"	230	01-04-1985
32	Francisco Rosario	P	R	R	6' 1"	225	09-28-1980
9	Hector Sanchez	P	R	R	5' 11"	172	04-26-1989
25	Alejandro Soto	P	L	L	6' 5"	230	02-13-1986
56	Mauricio Tabachnik	P	R	R	6' 2"	200	11-08-1989
26	Mauricio Tequida	P	R	R	6' 0"	170	06-02-1982
2	Josh Towers	P	R	R	6' 1"	185	02-26-1977
34	Rolando Valdez	P	R	R	6' 1"	191	12-15-1985
50	Misael Valenzuela	P	L	L	6' 0"	205	11-08-1987
45	Sergio Valenzuela	P	R	R	6' 3"	215	09-15-1984
33	Carlos Vasquez	P	L	L	5' 10"	178	03-09-1991

No.	CATCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
13	Jose Antonio Ramon	C	R	R	5' 9"	214	03-01-1988
37	Erick Rodriguez	C	R	R	6' 2"	205	11-27-1979

No.	INFIELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
3	Noe Becerra	3B	L	R	5' 10"	185	09-22-1986
49	Kevin Barker	1B	L	L	6' 2"	195	07-26-1975
10	Jaime Brena	2B	R	R	5' 9"	165	07-23-1980
11	Juan Canizales	DH	S	R	5' 10"	182	09-10-1970
40	Sergio Gastelum	3B	R	R	5' 10"	200	10-19-1978
30	Benji Gil	SS	R	R	6' 2"	210	10-06-1972
35	Jesus Lopez	SS	R	R	5' 11"	165	09-12-1987
43	Raul Lopez	1B	L	R	5' 11"	189	09-11-1978

No.	OUTFIELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
20	Yancarlo Angulo	OF	R	R	6' 0"	207	01-06-1987
1	Alejandro Gonzalez	CF	S	R	5' 11"	155	10-18-1985
19	Eloy Gutierrez	CF	S	R	6' 3"	200	11-25-1984
38	Christian Quintero	RF	R	R	6' 3"	185	03-02-1976
17	Alan Sanchez	OF	L	R	6' 0"	183	03-22-1989

**MANAGER:** Marco Antonio Vazquez

**COACHES:** Hector Alvarez, Octavio Alvarez, Eleazar Mora

## **Oaxaca, Oaxaca (home of the Guerreros)**



While Oaxaca is no stranger to visitors, it is anything but a tourist trap. Oaxaca has maintained a very colonial flavor while becoming known as a cultural arts center for the country because a number of local indigenous populations maintain their distinctive identities and languages. Oaxaca was named a "World Heritage Site" by the United Nations in 1987 along with the nearby Monte Alban ruins.

Although it sits in a valley that had been used as Zapotec and Mixtec settlements for centuries, Oaxaca was "discovered" by Spanish conquistadores in 1533, and quickly became a favorite of Hernando Cortes and his family for its temperate climate and scenery provided by the Sierra Madre del Sur mountain range that rims the city of a quarter-million inhabitants. There are a number of beautiful churches in Oaxaca (including the breathtaking baroque-styled Templo de Santo Domingo). There are outdoor markets galore throughout the state of Oaxaca, and the Saturday *mercado* in the city is not to be missed. Oaxaca is also known for its many colorful fiestas, and history buffs almost always visit the ruins at Monte Alban and Mitla (both built centuries ago by the Zapotec tribe and also occupied by the Mayans and Aztecs).

Two of Mexico's most important historical figures hailed from Oaxaca: Benito Juarez, who went from working as a farmhand to become Mexico's first indigenous president between 1858 and 1872; and Porfirio Diaz, another Mexican president between the 1870's and 1910's who as a virtual dictator modernized the country during his time in office.

Oaxaca is home to the Mexican League Guerreros during the spring and summer. The Guerreros play at Estadio Eduardo Vasconcelos, a 7,200-seat facility in the northern part of the city. The ballpark, which was built in 1950 and underwent renovations in 1996 and 2008, is one of the few in the country with an artificial playing surface, using field turf instead of natural grass. The Guerreros (or "Warriors") have yet to win a Liga crown and even faced a midseason move last summer after a workers strike shut down the ballpark before the dispute was resolved.



### **PUEBLA PERICOS**

**Calz. Ignacio Zaragoza #666, Col. Maravillas  
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**WEBSITE:** www.pericosdepuebla.com.mx

**PRESIDENT:** Rafael Moreno Valle Sanchez

**GENERAL MANAGER:** Edgar Ramirez Salazar

**FIELD MANAGER:** Alfonso "Houston" Jimenez

**BALLPARK:** Parque Hermanos Serdan

**CAPACITY:** 12,112

**2010 RECORD:** 66-39

One of the changes brought about by the layoffs for the Nuevo Laredo and Chihuahua franchises in the Liga this year is the shift of LMB South champion Puebla to the tougher LMB North, where the Pericos will have to compete against Mexico City, Monterrey and defending champion Saltillo just to return to the League Championship Series. And they'll have to do it without Willis Otanez.

The reigning Liga batting champion took his .393 average to Reynosa, his seventh LMB team since 2001. Otanez will be missed, but Puebla skipper Houston Jimenez' cupboard hasn't been left bare. Returning will be Luis Suarez (.361/8/63), Rene Reyes (.336/16/84) and Omar de la Torre (.338/12/72), forming one of the Liga's best outfielders and DH Serafin Rodriguez (.361/6/38) adds pop. The infield is not nearly as strong offensively while 3B Miguel Terrero and SS Ivan Cervantes combined for 32 errors.

Puebla's pitching staff has three solid starters in Lorenzo Barcelo (11-5/3.65), Omar Espinoza (11-4/4.31) and Andres Meza (10-5/4.58), but the fourth and fifth slots in the rotation are unsettled. Closer Luis Ramirez (3-3/3.86) had 30 saves and Jose Cobos (6-4/3.18) is a useful setup man.

The Pericos should still be winners, but the road to the pennant is a harder one from the North than the South. They'll make the playoffs, but it's hard to see Puebla making it to the Finals...there's just too much competition.

### **2011 PUEBLA PERICOS home schedule**

**MAR** 19 Monterrey, 22-24 Tabasco, 29-31 Veracruz

**APR** 6-8 Oaxaca, 15-17 Monterrey, 22-24 Quintana Roo

**MAY** 3-5 Saltillo, 6-8 Mexico City, 13-15 Campeche, 20-22, 23-24 Oaxaca, 31-Jun 2 Reynosa

**JUN** 6-8 Yucatan, 14-16 Monclova, 17-19 Laguna

**JUL** 2-3 Reynosa, 4-5 Monterrey, 11-12 Mexico City, 14-15 Saltillo, 21-22 Monclova, 23-24 Laguna

## PUEBLA PERICOS 2011 Roster

No.	PITCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
19	Jose Avalos	P	R	R	6' 3"	220	08-06-1982
20	Lorenzo Barcelo	P	R	R	6' 4"	230	08-10-1977
31	Jose Cobos	P	R	R	6' 1"	220	10-11-1980
42	Adolfo Delfin	P	R	R	6' 1"	210	07-15-1973
11	Omar Espinoza	P	R	R	6' 5"	240	08-20-1983
17	Edgar Estudillo	P	R	R	6' 2"	175	07-12-1987
43	Victor Jacome	P	L	L	5' 8"	172	01-23-1983
29	Mauricio Lara	P	S	L	5' 11"	194	04-02-1979
22	Andres Meza	P	R	R	5' 10"	185	08-04-1986
8	Ignacio Montano	P	L	L	5' 9"	200	03-08-1981
28	Humberto Montemayor	P	R	R	5' 11"	240	10-12-1977
37	Guadalupe Perez	P	R	R	6' 1"	200	12-12-1978
38	Lauro Ramirez	P	R	R	5' 8"	176	07-08-1990
53	Luis Ramirez	P	R	R	6' 4"	202	06-09-1982

No.	PITCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
10	Cesar Tapia	C	R	R	5' 11"	200	11-10-1982
26	Francisco Valdez	C	R	R	5' 9"	200	09-19-1968

No.	INFELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
2	Ivan Cervantes	SS	R	R	6' 0"	200	08-05-1979
14	Valentin Gamez	2B	R	R	6' 0"	175	02-14-1983
33	Mendy Lopez	3B	R	R	6' 2"	200	10-15-1973
75	Serafin Rodriguez	DH	R	R	5' 11"	195	03-03-1975
16	Ricardo Serrano	2B	S	R	5' 9"	165	04-03-1986
13	Miguel Torrero	3B	R	R	5' 9"	170	02-09-1984

No.	OUTFIELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
99	Alberto Carreon	OF	R	R	6' 0"	180	05-01-1988
18	Omar De La Torre	RF	R	R	5' 11"	185	12-30-1979
49	Eliezer Ortiz	OF	R	R	5' 9"	180	07-18-1987
7	Rene Reyes	CF	S	R	5' 11"	175	02-21-1978
27	Luis Suarez	LF	L	L	5' 9"	198	06-09-1979

**MANAGER:** Alfonso "Houston" Jimenez

**COACHES:** Javier Jimenez, Jorge Luis Loredo, Jesus Moreno, Eduardo Rivera

## **Puebla, Puebla (home of the Pericos)**



Puebla is a city of 1.4 million people and capital of the state of the same name. Although Puebla may not be high on the list of most tourist destinations, it perhaps should be. This city was one of the most important in Mexico for centuries of Spanish colonialism as a staging area for cargo going between the capital in Mexico City and the nation's leading seaport in Veracruz after being founded by the Spaniards in 1531. Puebla has been the site of some important military skirmishes in the past, one of which included a fight on May 5, 1862 in which a motley and badly-outnumbered band of Mexicans courageously fought off attempts by well-armed French invaders to take Puebla. The Battle of Puebla is credited by many for giving Mexicans a sense of unity for the first time, and celebrations across America marking "Cinco de Mayo" over the years are often observed by millions who have no idea why it's so important.

Puebla is as quiet as Veracruz is noisy. Colorful Talavera tiles are a major part of local architecture, which is very reflective of its colonial past with many ornately-decorated buildings marking Puebla's strong European influences. Many buildings were damaged during a strong earthquake in the late 1990's, but most have been restored to their former grandeur. Unlike many popular waterfront cities among tourists in Mexico, Puebla is landlocked in a valley surrounded by four volcanoes. This is a place for travelers interested in seeing a slice of Old Mexico in a classic setting.

Puebla is also one of the country's many culinary arts centers and home of Mexico's national dish, *Mole Poblano*, cooked turkey meat covered with a dark *mole* sauce consisting of a highly-addictive combination of chocolates, nuts, chilis and other spices. Puebla is home to the Mexican League's Pericos (or "Parrots"). The city has seen three Liga pennant-winners with the Pericos taking the title in 1963 and the old Angeles raising the flag in 1979 and 1986. The team plays at the 12,000-seat Estadio Hermanos Serdan. Puebla was 66-39 last year and reached the LMB finals before falling to Saltillo. The Pericos have moved to the Northern Zone for the 2011 season after both the Nuevo Laredo and Chihuahua franchises were given the year off by the Liga.





### **QUINTANA ROO TIGRES**

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**PRESIDENT:** Cuauhtemoc Rodriguez Meza  
**GENERAL MANAGER:** Mario Valenzuela  
**FIELD MANAGER:** Matias Carrillo  
**BALLPARK:** Parque Beto Avila  
**CAPACITY:** 9,000  
**2010 RECORD:** 56-47

The Tigres had a good season in 2010, making the playoffs under manager Matias Carrillo and settling a bit in the front office after the Peralta family took the "For Sale" sign off the team. Still it'll be tough for the Cancun nine to repeat their on-field success without Bobby Cramer in Tigres togs.

Cramer (13-3/2.95) parlayed a summer with Quintana Roo as the LMB's best pitcher into four starts and two wins for his MLB debut with Oakland in September. Left behind were Arturo Barradas (8-5/5.46), Pablo Ortega (2-6/8.24) and Juan Ramon Mares (2-5/4.77) among the starters. Efficient closer Scott Chiasson (2-2/2.67/24 saves) is very good, but the overall quality of Tigres pitching drops in 2011 without Cramer on the staff.

Quintana Roo hit .301 as a team last year despite some regulars having off-years. OF brothers Albino (.329/6/44) and Sergio (.323/10/55) Contreras both had nice years, as did vet 2B Carlos Gastelum (.325/5/43), but UT Kevin Flores (.294), and 3Bs Jaime Trejo (.298) and Abel Martinez (.311/11/49) combined with Gastelum and departed SS Flavio Romero for 59 errors. Obregon's postseason hero C Iker Franco (.259/11/69) needs to rebound from a quiet 2010 in Cancun while IB Carlos Sievers (.285) needs to turn back the clock.

The Tigres should compete in the weaker LMB South and are a decent bet for the Finals, but the loss of Cramer makes any pennant dreams unlikely to be fulfilled.

### **2011 QUINTANA ROO TIGRES home schedule**

**MAR 20** Mexico City, 21-23 Saltillo, 25-27 Mexico City  
**APR 5-7** Laguna, 8-10 Monclova, 15-17 Campeche, 19-21 Oaxaca, 29-May 1 Yucatan  
**MAY 6-8** Veracruz, 16-18 Monterrey, 20-22 Reynosa, 31-Jun 2 Tabasco  
**JUN 10-12** Puebla, 17-19 Yucatan, 21-23 Minatitlan  
**JUL 4-5** Oaxaca, 7-8 Minatitlan, 9-10 Veracruz, 14-15 Tabasco, 25-26 Campeche

## QUINTANA ROO TIGRES 2011 Roster

No	PITCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
67	Felipe Arredondo	P	R	R	6' 4"	225	10-04-1986
25	Arturo Barradas	P	L	L	6' 3"	190	08-10-1987
56	Pedro Beltran	P	R	R	5'9"	187	06-07-1990
16	Jorge Campillo	P	R	R	6' 0"	230	08-10-1978
50	Cesar Carrillo	P	L	L	6' 1"	214	09-25-1990
34	Scott Chiasson	P	R	R	6'3"	210	08-14-1977
92	Francisco Cordoba	P	R	R	6' 3"	231	08-26-1983
37	Seth Etherton	P	R	R	6' 1"	195	10-17-1976
56	Enrique Gomez	P	R	R	6' 2"	181	08-23-1988
49	Esteban Haro	P	R	R	6' 0"	165	11-11-1985
51	Edgar Huerta	P	L	L	6' 0"	183	05-23-1978
3	Eder Llamas	P	R	R	6' 1"	180	09-21-1985
13	Juan Ramon Mares	P	R	R	6' 1"	187	08-19-1987
15	Sandy Nin	P	R	R	6' 0"	170	08-13-1980
33	Pablo Ortega	P	R	R	6' 2"	190	11-07-1976
32	Jose Ramirez	P	R	R	5' 7"	200	06-05-1982

No	CATCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
46	Alan Espinoza	C	R	R	5' 7"	165	01-30-1991
43	Iker Franco	C	R	R	6' 2"	240	03-03-1981
60	Omar Renteria	C	R	R	5' 9"	180	01-17-1990

No	INFIELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
42	Pedro Castellano	IF	R	R	5' 7"	165	03-11-1970
22	Kevin Flores	SS	R	R	5' 10"	185	09-18-1984
5	Carlos Gastelum	2B	R	R	5' 11"	165	10-29-1979
30	Abel Martinez	3B	R	R	6' 1"	216	04-15-1977
44	Carlos Sievers	DH	L	R	5' 8"	210	02-14-1975
7	Jaime Trejo	3B	R	R	6' 3"	180	09-07-1983

No	OUTFIELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
19	Reggie Abercrombie	OF	R	R	6' 3"	215	07-15-1981
52	Eliseo Aldazaba	LF	R	R	6' 0"	176	11-01-1990
59	Doug Clark	OF	L	R	6' 2"	205	03-05-1976
9	Albino Contreras	OF	R	R	5' 10"	205	04-30-1980
2	Sergio Contreras	RF	L	L	5' 10"	205	04-30-1980
17	Ricardo Vazquez	LF	R	R	6'1"	209	03-15-1982

**MANAGER: Matias Carrillo**

**COACHES: Martin Arzate, Francisco Chavez, Santos Hernandez, Luis Huerta, Roberto Vizcarra**

## **Cancun, Quintana Roo (home of the Tigres)**



Cancun sits in the southeastern state of Quintana Roo. When North Americans think of Cancun, it's usually a mental picture of warm weather and sandy beaches, but there's much more to the story than that. Cancun was a sleepy Quintana Roo fishing village of 120 as recently as 1970 before being picked by a computer as a good site for tourism. Twenty-five years later, about 500,000 people live in Cancun with another two million visitors annually.

Quintana Roo is a tropical state on the Yucatan Peninsula (at the tip of Mexico's "boot"), bordering Guatemala, Belize, Yucatan and the Gulf of Mexico. Travelers willing to break away from Cancun's beaches can find Mayan ruins and artifacts predating Columbus back to the 12th Century nearby. It is a region brimming with early Mexican history, and ruins continue to be discovered after being swallowed up for centuries by jungle foliage. It's a birdwatcher's paradise, too, with hundreds of species on hand to observe. Don't expect to find evidence of colonial Mexico in Cancun, however.

The history of Cancun baseball is less than impressive. The city made its Mexican League debut in 1996 as the Quintana Roo Langosteros before taking on Cancun's name two years later. The Lobstermen reached the playoff in 1997 but spent most of the time near the bottom of the standings until Hurricane Wilma decimated Cancun in 2005, forcing the team to move to Poza Rica (kicking off a three-city odyssey for that franchise).

The city remained without baseball until the Angelopolis Tigres moved to Cancun in 2007. The Tigres are one of Mexico's most storied baseball team since their formation in 1955. The team has won nine Liga penants over the years (most of which original owner Alejo Peralta insisted on an all-Mexican roster), and their rivalry with the Diablos Rojos when both teams were based in Mexico City for 47 years was legendary. The team was placed for sale over the winter of 2009-10 by owner Carlos Peralta (Alejo's son), but when no suitable offer was made, Peralta pulled the Tigres off the market and keep the team in Cancun.

Cancun's ballpark, Parque Beto Avila, is one of the Liga's smaller stadiums with 7,000 seats, although it did go through a facelift during the offseason. It was initially renovated for 20 million pesos before the Tigres moved there four years ago, and is one of two ballparks in Mexico named for Roberto "Beto" Avila, former star of the Cleveland Indians. The other is in Avila's native Veracruz.



### **REYNOSA BRONCOS**

**Blvd. Miguel Hidalgo s/n esq. Calle 1A**

**Col. Adolfo Lopez Mateos**

**Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico**

**PHONE:** (899) 925-0280/(899) 925-0208

**EMAIL:** not available

**WEBSITE:** [www.reynosabroncos.com](http://www.reynosabroncos.com)

**PRESIDENT:** Eliud Villareal Garza

**GENERAL MANAGER:** Ramon Esquer

**FIELD MANAGER:** Homar Rojas

**BALLPARK:** Estadio Adolfo Lopez Mateos

**CAPACITY:** 10,000

**2010 RECORD:** 56-51

The Broncos are one of those teams that look like contenders on paper until you peek at who other teams have. Reynosa might be a contender in the LMB South, but they'll scramble to even make the playoffs even though they've got a good everyday lineup and a respected manager in Homar Rojas.

Reynosa's big offseason pickup was LMB batting king Willis Otanez (.393/12/76), who makes the border city his seventh LMP stop in 12 years. Wherever Otanez has gone, he's hit, and he'll DH for a team with productive hitters like IF Yurendell de Caster (.339/15/66), 1B Jesse Gutierrez (.326/21/84), newcomer Eduardo Arredondo (.356 for Mexico City) and 3B Marshall McDougall, who went .286/20/86 for Reynosa in 2009 before spending last year in Taiwan. This is a stronger batting order than Otanez left in Puebla.

The Broncos pitchers were collectively unimpressive in 2010 but finished fifth in the LMB with a 4.66 team ERA, so they weren't bad, either. Marco Tovar (8-4/3.24) became Reynosa's most reliable starter last year, Alan Guerrero (4-4/3.38/16) is a sometimes dominant closer plus there's hope that Azael Alvarez (5-4/3.36) and Alberto Manrique (4-13/7.47) can fill the back end of the starting rotation, but Reynosa pitchers may have to do it with mirrors in 2011.

Rojas has done some good managerial work in the past, but these Broncos don't have the horses.

### **2011 REYNOSA BRONCOS home schedule**

**MAR** 20 Laguna, 22-24 Monclova, 29-31 Yucatan

**APR** 1-3 Quintana Roo, 12-14 Puebla, 18-20 Monterrey, 26-28 Mexico City

**MAY** 3-5 Tabasco, 6-8 Campeche, 13-15 Laguna, 24-26 Veracruz

**JUN** 3-5 Oaxaca, 7-9 Monterrey, 17-19 Saltillo, 28-20 Minatitlan

**JUL** 12-13 Monclova, 16-17 Puebla, 21-22 Mexico City, 23-24 Saltillo, 27-28 Laguna

# REYNOSA BRONCOS 2011 Roster

NO.	PITCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
47	Azael Alvarez	P	L	L	6' 1"	195	05-06-1982
20	Eduardo Arroyo	P	L	L	6' 0"	170	05-22-1989
11	Daniel Baca	P	R	R	5' 9"	195	10-17-1985
42	Hector Chavarria	P	R	R	5' 9"	165	05-15-1981
34	Jose Gallego	P	R	R	5' 8"	210	11-22-1988
53	Rodolfo Gonzalez	P	R	R	6' 1"	188	07-06-1981
36	Alan Guerrero	P	R	R	6' 0"	220	11-14-1987
51	Cupertino Leon	P	R	R	6' 0"	200	09-18-1979
6	Jose Juan Lopez	P	R	R	5' 9"	175	03-29-1968
77	Alberto Manrique	P	R	R	6' 4"	220	01-28-1976
25	Manuel Perez	P	L	L	6' 0"	200	03-01-1985
35	Allan Ramirez	P	R	R	6' 3"	183	11-20-1981
56	Francisco Rivera	P	R	R	5' 11"	205	11-11-1974
57	Marco Tovar	P	L	L	6' 1"	190	12-31-1988

NO.	CATCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
7	Francisco Esparragoza	C	R	R	5' 7"	172	10-04-1982
26	Adan Munoz	C	L	R	6' 2"	209	03-09-1978
29	Baltazar Valdez	C	R	R	6' 1"	215	01-07-1983

NO.	INFIELTERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
1	Rodrigo Aguirre	DH	L	R	5' 9"	170	06-01-1985
28	Domingo Castro	SS	R	R	6' 0"	175	02-28-1980
22	Yurendell de Caster	3B	R	R	6' 0"	215	09-26-1979
37	Jesse Gutierrez	1B	R	R	5' 11"	200	06-16-1978
54	Rosario Irazoqui	2B	R	R	5' 8"	179	07-19-1986
19	Paul Llano	3B	R	R	6' 0"	210	10-21-1985
23	Marshall McDougall	3B	R	R	6' 1"	200	12-19-1978
39	Willis Otanez	3B	R	R	6' 1"	200	04-19-1973

NO.	OUTFIELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
39	Jose Aguilar	OF	R	R	5' 8"	190	05-19-1990
14	Eduardo Arredondo	OF	L	L	6' 0"	220	10-15-1984
12	Jose Espinoza	RF	L	R	5' 9"	180	06-22-1974
5	Oscar Ramirez	LF	R	R	5' 4"	143	09-14-1978

**MANAGER:** Homar Rojas

**COACHES:** Juan Chavez, Porfirio Mendoza, Juan Trevino, Armando Valdez



## **Reynosa, Tamaulipas (home of the Broncos)**



Reynosa, Tamaulipas is located across the Rio Grande from McAllen, Texas. According to the 2005 census, Reynosa's population was 507,998 for the city.

Reynosa was founded on March 14, 1749 with 297 inhabitants by Carlos Cantú under the command of the Count of Sierra Gorda, Jose de Escandon. However, due to flooding in the area on July 4, 1802, they decided to move five miles to the east while keeping the same margin between them and the Rio Grande. It was not until 1926 that the state government recognized Reynosa as a city.

It was first named Villa de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe de Reynosa. The pioneers of the town all came from from El Nuevo Reino de León, especially from Monterrey, Cadereyta, Cerralvo and El Pílon. The town originally was composed of 50 families, and was given the name of Reynosa as a tribute to a town with the same name in Spain. From 1846 until 1848, the township was captured and temporarily held by the United States Army during the War of Texas until it was permanently ceded to Mexico and the border between the two countries redrawn along the Rio Grande.

Reynosa extends 1,219 square miles, representing 3.7 per cent of the Tamaulipas territory. Today it is the location of several satellite U.S. companies doing business to take advantage of low labor rates, sparse benefits and industry incentives (as is the case in so many Mexican cities along the border. The township and area have been featured in the news due to the reported discovery of the largest seized weapons cache in Mexican drug cartel history.

The Reynosa Broncos are a Mexican League team that plays home games in 10,000-seat Estadio Adolfo Lopez Mateos. Reynosa has one pennant in their history, topping Monterrey in the finals, but lost in seven games to the Mexico City Diablos Rojos in 1981 for the only other time it has played in the LMB championship. That set was unique in Mexican baseball history in that despite the series going the full seven games, neither team won a single home game.

The Broncos finished the 2010 regular season with a 56-51 record and 12.0 points to finish in a three-way tie for third place in the LMB North in the Liga's recently-discarded qualification system, but just missed reaching the playoffs because both Chihuahua and eventual champion Saltillo both had better won-lost records.



### **SALTILLO SARAPEROS**

**Blvd. Nazario S. Ortiz Garza s/n Col. Ciudad Deportiva  
Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico C.P. 25280**

**PHONE:** (844) 416-9455/(844) 416-9755/(844) 439-1330

**EMAIL:** aley@grupoley.com

**WEBSITE:** www.saraperos.com.mx

**PRESIDENT:** Alvaro Ley Lopez

**GENERAL MANAGER:** Eduardo Valenzuela Guajardo

**FIELD MANAGER:** Orlando Sanchez

**BALLPARK:** Estadio Francisco I. Madero

**CAPACITY:** 16,000

**2010 RECORD:** 55-49

The Saraperos had to hold off Reynosa for the fourth and final LMB North playoff berth with the Liga's seventh-best season record, but made the most of the postseason by winning their second consecutive pennant. The road to another flag won't be easier with the addition of Puebla in the North.

The Saraperos could be up to the challenge. Saltillo's batting order will include solid veterans like 2B Jose Rodriguez (.333/12/64), DH/1B Refugio Cervantes (.291/20/90) and OFs Cristhian Presichi (.342/8/58), Jesus Cota (.332/12/47) and Willie Romero (.323/7/56). Romero came to Saltillo in a midseason trade with Yucatan for 1B Sandy Madera and hit .358 for the Saraperos over 31 games. Saltillo manager Orlando Sanchez has a good batting order with a nice combination of power and speed, and all that playoff experience the past two pennant runs has a value all its own.

Sanchez could possibly worry about his pitching, however. Although Danny Rodriguez (4-4/3.97) was the playoff MVP with five postseason wins (including a no-hitter) and ex-MLBer Jose Mercedes (0-3/5.40) pitched a complete game in Saltillo's pennant-clinching win over Puebla, this is still a staff with a 5.15 ERA. Longtime Liga pitcher Rafael Diaz (1-0/1.80 in eight appearances) may be called upon to close, as could vet Cecilio Garibaldi (5-7/5.06). The mound is an area of concern for the Saraperos.

Saltillo may very well earn themselves a three-peat, but they'll need to outthit their opponents to do it...they won't likely win with their pitching.

### **2011 SALTILLO SARAPEROS home schedule**

**MAR** 28-31 Monclova

**APR** 5-7 Tabasco, 8-10 Campeche, 11-13 Mexico City, 22-24 Veracruz, 29-May 1 Reynosa

**MAY** 9-11 Quintana Roo, 13-15 Yucatan, 20-22 Laguna, 31-Jun 2 Mexico City

**JUN** 7-9 Minatitlan, 13-15 Monterrey, 21-23 Puebla, 24-26 Oaxaca, 28-30 Tabasco

**JUL** 2-3 Laguna, 7-8 Reynosa, 16-17 Monclova, 21-22 Monterrey, 27-28 Puebla

# SALTILLO SARAPEROS 2011 Roster

No.	PITCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
9	Angel Araiza	P	R	R	6' 0"	159	08-02-1989
59	Everado Arvizu	P	L	L	6' 0"	180	09-03-1987
40	Oscar Calderon	P	R	R	6' 1"	180	03-27-1991
2	Rafael Diaz	P	R	R	6' 1"	170	12-12-1970
34	Cecilio Garibaldi	P	R	R	6' 2"	190	01-05-1978
51	Alejandro Garrido	P	L	L	6' 1"	176	11-16-1985
48	Amilcar Gaxiola	P	L	L	6' 2"	170	10-27-1990
47	Mario Gonzalez	P	R	R	6' 0"	168	03-14-1985
39	Esteban Hernandez	P	R	R	5' 11"	191	10-22-1980
43	Jose De Jesus Jimenez	P	L	L	6' 1"	215	01-05-1976
19	Jose Lopez Cruz	P	R	R	6' 3"	187	09-23-1989
36	Thomas Melgarejo	P	L	L	6' 1"	216	01-10-1987
11	Mario Mendoza, Jr.	P	R	R	6' 3"	200	01-19-1979
75	Jose Mercedes	P	R	R	6' 1"	180	03-05-1971
26	Danny Rodriguez	P	L	L	6' 0"	185	12-11-1984
38	Fernando Villalobos	P	R	R	5' 9"	195	12-07-1984

No	CATCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
57	Jonathan Aceves	C	R	R	6' 2"	220	03-07-1978
53	Genaro Andrade	C	R	R	6' 1"	233	11-08-1984
28	Noe Munoz	C	R	R	6' 2"	210	12-03-1970

No	INFIELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
45	Carlos Alvarez	2B	L	R	5' 8"	182	10-28-1987
1	Jose Amador	2B	R	R	5' 11"	189	08-20-1979
24	Jose Castaneda	3B	R	R	6' 1"	190	08-15-1984
42	Refugio Cervantes	DH	L	R	6' 3"	220	08-05-1978
79	Carlos Eduardo Gonzalez	SS	R	R	5' 10"	176	02-25-1985
16	Gabriel Martinez	3B	L	R	6' 2"	180	05-17-1983
10	Sergio Palafox	3B	R	R	5' 11"	175	10-25-1979
13	Jose Rodriguez	2B	R	R	5' 10"	187	07-28-1982

No	OUTFIELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
32	Jesus Cota	LF	L	R	6' 3"	220	11-07-1981
14	Jose Bernardo Lopez	OF	R	R	5' 8"	181	12-15-1989
29	Cristhian Presichi	OF	R	R	6' 0"	200	07-28-1980
48	Willie Romero	OF	R	R	6' 0"	170	08-05-1974

**MANAGER: Orlando Sanchez**

**COACHES: Fernando Elizondo, Martin Enriquez, Julio Miranda, Marco Romero, Leo Valenzuela**

## **Saltillo, Coahuila (home of the Saraperos)**



While often lost in the shadow of Monterrey, people who prefer a less-industrialized northern Mexico city might like Saltillo better. The capital of the state of Coahuila, Saltillo was founded as a colonial city in 1575 and named after a nearby waterfall coming from a local spring. The city has received a number of nicknames over the years, including "The Athens of Mexico", "The City of Ideal Climate", and "The Land of the Sarape" (a distinctly Mexican clothing item that originated here and for which the city's baseball team is named after).

Founded by Spanish colonists, Saltillo is the oldest post-conquest settlement in northern Mexico. In 1591 the Spanish resettled a community of their Tlaxalteco allies in a separate nearby village in order to cultivate the land and aid colonization efforts that had stalled in the face of local hostility to the Spanish presence. In 1824, Saltillo was made the capital of the State of Coahuila and included the area which is now the US State of Texas until the Texas War and the founding of the independent Texas nation.

Besides serving as Coahuila's capital city, Saltillo is also a major commercial and agricultural center. There are approximately 725,000 residents in the metropolitan area, which features a large number of buildings constructed of pink quarry and limestone. Among the better places to visit are the Saltillo Cathedral, considered one of the most beautiful baroque buildings in the country; the Nueva Tlaxacala Plaza, mixing Spanish and native Tlaxalteco culture into a unique esplanade behind the local government palace (which itself was built in 1808 and is the site of a number of historic murals); and the gorgeous El Casino de Saltillo, a Greco-Roman style building with neo-classic details.

The Saraperos are one of the best-run franchises in the Mexican League, annually in the hunt for a Northern Zone title and among the Liga leaders in attendance. Saltillo's baseball park, Parque Francisco I. Madero, is one of the LMB's bigger venues with 14,000 seats. The Saraperos are the two-time defending Mexican League champions after defeating Quintana Roo in the 2009 finals and Puebla in 2010. Saltillo was also considered the 1980 pennant winner, although that season ended early with a players strike and the formation of a player-run league that ran its own schedule after the LMB called off the rest of their schedule that year.





### **TABASCO OLMECAS**

**Ciudad Deportiva, Col. Atasta de Serra  
Villahermosa, Tabasco, Mexico C.P. 86100**

**PHONE:** (993) 352-2787

**FAX:** (993) 352-2788

**EMAIL:** olmecastab@prodigy.net.mex

**WEBSITE:** None

**PRESIDENT:** Jose Enrique Priego Roviroso

**GENERAL MANAGER:** Raul Cano

**FIELD MANAGER:** Derek Bryant

**BALLPARK:** Parque Centenario de 27 Febrero

**CAPACITY:** 10,500

**2010 RECORD:** 46-60

The Olmecas are historically one of the Mexican League weak sisters, and 2010 was another object lesson in "how." Tabasco finished 14 games under .500 with a revolving door of players coming in and out of Villahermosa (no less than 68 different men suited up for the Olmecas last year), three men managed the team and just 105,379 fans found their way to the ballpark for home games.

New manager Derek Bryant inherits this mess. He's a proven Liga manager and is not entirely without talented players. 1B Michel Abreu (.292/17/71) was the only player to hit more than six homers, OF Tike Redman (.355/4/41) did well and veteran 1B Ramon Orantes (.326/11/81) was a nice pickup from Chihuahua in the dispersal draft. IF Henry Mateo (.338 with 21 steals for Laguna and Mexico City) is hoping for stability in Tabasco after a weird 2010 season, but the Olmecas lineup isn't frightening.

Of those 68 players last year, 39 were hurlers who combined for a 5.16 ERA. Only William Vizcarra (9-3/4.63) had more than five wins and Francisco Villegas (2-1/2.98/24 saves) was an effective closer, but the well starts running dry. Juan Pena (5-5/3.83) and Jorge Ibarra (7-8/7.68 for Laguna last year) will battle for the number two starter's job. Jose Silva (6-9/4.60 for Chihuahua in 2010) had a great winter for Culiacan and will likely be the Olmecas closer, which may kind of like being first mate on the Titanic: Someone has to do it.

Under a good skipper like Bryant, the Olmecas WILL show up for games...but that's about as good as it'll get. This is a franchise that could use a break and has never really gotten one.

### **2011 TABASCO OLMECAS home schedule**

**MAR** 19 Minatitlan, 25-27 Oaxaca

**APR** 1-3 Campeche, 8-10 Mexico City, 12-14 Quintana Roo, 19-21 Monclova, 22-24 Laguna,  
29-May 1 Minatitlan

**MAY** 10-12 Puebla, 17-19 Campeche

**JUN** 4-5 Yucatan, 14-16 Veracruz, 21-23 Reynosa, 24-26 Monterrey, 28-30 Saltillo

**JUL** 5-6 Veracruz, 12-13 Yucatan, 17-18 Minatitlan, 21-22 Oaxaca, 27-28 Quintana Roo



## TABASCO OLMECAS 2011 Roster

No.	PITCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thw	Ht	Wt	DOB
59	Gaudencio Aguirre	P	R	R	6' 0"	209	01-22-1973
19	Salvador Arellano	P	R	R	5' 8"	176	08-09-1982
14	Mike Burns	P	R	R	6' 1"	210	07-14-1978
49	Jorge Flores	P	L	L	6' 0"	195	07-01-1978
12	Jose Garcia	P	L	L			07-12-1973
23	Luis Garza	P	R	R	6' 4"	242	05-17-1979
51	Leonardo Gonzalez	P	R	R	6' 0"	200	08-18-1983
52	Jorge Ibarra	P	L	L	6' 2"	185	09-22-1987
15	Francisco Madero	P	R	R	5' 11"	182	12-06-1979
20	Jose Nunez	P	R	R	5' 9"	175	02-22-1975
46	Juan Pena	P	L	L	6' 3"	200	12-04-1977
27	Alfonso Sanchez	P	R	R	5' 10"	203	07-27-1988
56	Jose Silva	P	R	R	6' 6"	235	12-19-1973
58	Luis Vazquez	P	R	R	5' 11"	220	09-09-1980
54	Juan Villa	P	L	L	5' 11"	200	12-06-1977
1	Francisco Villegas	P	R	R	5' 10"	185	03-23-1978
47	William Vizcarra	P	R	R	6' 1"	180	05-15-1984

No	CATCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thw	Ht	Wt	DOB
2	Isidro Pina	C	R	R	6' 1"	176	10-16-1988
37	Mario Santana	C	R	R	5' 10"	185	05-23-1976

No	INFIELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thw	Ht	Wt	DOB
28	Michel Abreu	1B	R	R	6' 3"	245	01-02-1979
53	Jesus E. Castillo	3B	L	R	6' 2"	190	03-03-1983
10	Francisco Lizarraga	SS	R	R	6' 0"	185	10-01-1985
4	Henry Mateo	2B	S	R	6' 0"	175	10-14-1976
24	Ramon Orantes	1B	R	R	6' 1"	210	12-05-1973
5	Luis Porchas	SS	R	R	5' 8"	163	08-08-1989
9	David Urias	3B	R	R	6' 0"	182	02-08-1985
33	Jorge Luis Valle	3B	R	R	5' 10"	190	03-10-1975

No	OUTFIELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thw	Ht	Wt	DOB
17	Ruben Agramon	OF	R	R	5' 10"	175	05-07-1985
6	Carlos Ibarra	OF	L	R	5' 10"	185	08-06-1983
50	Roberto Macias	OF	L	R	6' 0"	220	08-11-1979
62	Roberto Mendez	OF	L	R	6' 0"	220	05-20-1973
25	Gonzalo Meza	OF	L	R	5' 6"	170	03-12-1979
41	Tike Redman	OF	L	L	5' 11"	175	03-10-1977

**MANAGER: Derek Bryant**

**COACHES: Jose Bojorquez, Mercedes Esquer, Juan Jose Robles, Vicente Romo**

## **Villahermosa, Tabasco (home of the Olmecas)**



Villahermosa, Tabasco, is home of the Olmecas. Tabasco was largely ignored during the nation's turbulent history over the centuries, but the development of oil drilling within the past century changed all that and resulted in the growth of the state capital of Villahermosa (which means "beautiful town").

Centuries ago, Tabasco was the center of the Olmec culture, which is considered by many archeologists as the mother culture of Mesoamerica. Hernando Cortes landed at the mouth of the Rio Grijalva in 1519 and easily conquered the native Mayans, but found raiding pirates more difficult to deal with and moved inland to what is now Villahermosa.

The Tabasco region was fairly untouched during the colonial period because the Spaniards found the steamy, insect-ridden jungle climate less than hospitable, and Tabasco was largely bypassed during former president Porfirio Diaz' industrialization efforts in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Oil was discovered in the 1930's, but wasn't fully exploited until the 1970's. The oil boom has led to tremendous growth in Tabasco and Villahermosa, which is now a metropolis of over 500,000 residents.

While one would be hard-pressed to call Villahermosa a "beautiful town" in a literal sense, it is not without its charms. The nearby Olmec site of La Venta was discovered by oil drillers years ago and is now a popular park with a zoo. In the city itself, the impressive CICOM complex includes a concert hall, theater, museum, research library and a restaurant. The Carlos Pellicer Regional & Anthropological Museum has four levels, and is popular with visitors.

Villahermosa is home to the Tabasco Olmecas baseball club, named after the original inhabitants of the region. The Olmecas play their home games at Parque Centenario 27 de Febrero, which seats 10,500 fans. The Olmecas have been one of the Liga's most luckless franchises since their inception in 1975, although they did win a Mexican League pennant in 1993 under manager Juan Navarrete (one of the best second basemen in Liga history). Salon de la Fama member Derek Bryant takes over as skipper in 2011 after the team finished with a 46-60 record last year.



## **VERACRUZ AGUILAS**

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**EMAIL:** raguilas@ver.megared.net.mx

**WEBSITE:** www.aguiladeveracruz.com

**PRESIDENT:** Jean Paul Mansur Beltran

**GENERAL MANAGER:** Grimaldo Martinez Gonzalez

**FIELD MANAGER:** Daniel Fernandez

**BALLPARK:** Estadio Universitario Beto Avila

**CAPACITY:** 7,782

**2010 RECORD:** 39-66

The Aguilas were an all-or-nothing team in 2010: Their 107 homers tied for second in homers, but they also were third in strikeouts with 619 and last in hitting at .262. New manager Daniel Fernandez takes over a last-place team that plays in one of Mexico's most historic cities (and a place where people love a good time), but Veracruz fans are not likely to see their first LMB championship since 1970.

Defending Liga homer champ Victor Diaz (.298/29/96) and fellow OF Jorge Guzman (.238/22/65) will supply most of the power, and offseason dispersal draftee 1B Francisco Mendez (.338/19/88 in Chihuahua) can hit them out. Early season trade acquisition OF Daniel Fornes (.264/12/56 for Laguna in 2010) can hit for extra bases, if not average. 2B Jose Chavez (.273/11/35) and 3B Jesus Castillo (.293/5/31) have some pop, but this is a lineup that can be pitched around.

Fernandez has an unreliable everyday lineup, which won't be much help with the pitching staff he inherited from Tatis. Joel Vargas (8-5/3.66) was a decent top-of-the-rotation guy who didn't give up many walks (33 in 120.1 innings) and Rafael Cruz (4-0/1.69) was simply outstanding in just five starts, but the two midseason All-Stars had little behind them as Veracruz pitchers turned in a 5.49 ERA. Hector Navarro (1-3/3.52) had 15 saves after earning 27 in 2009, and will close again for the Aguilas.

Not having enough hitting to overcome their lackluster pitching likely means only an outside shot at a playoff appearance for Veracruz...but the people there will be sure to have a good time regardless.

### **2011 VERACRUZ AGUILAS home schedule**

**MAR** 19 Oaxaca, 25-27 Minatitlan

**APR** 1-3 Oaxaca, 5-7 Reynosa, 8-10 Monterrey, 19-21 Mexico City, 26-28 Tabasco

**MAY** 3-5 Yucatan, 13-15 Minatitlan, 17-19 Puebla, 31-Jun 2 Monclova

**JUN** 3-5 Laguna, 10-12 Saltillo, 17-19 Campeche, 24-26 Quintana Roo

**JUL** 2-3 Campeche, 12-13 Oaxaca, 19-20 Tabasco, 21-22 Yucatan, 25-26 Oaxaca

## VERACRUZ AGUILAS 2011 Roster

No.	PITCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thw	Ht	Wt	DOB
75	Juan Acevedo	P	R	R	6' 2"	243	05-05-1970
45	Rodolfo Aguirre	P	R	R	6' 1"	198	07-26-1985
28	Manuel Avila	P	R	R	6' 1"	185	120-24-1991
53	Rafael Cruz	P	R	R	6' 0"	195	08-20-1985
46	Luis De La O	P	R	R	6' 1"	209	12-15-1989
59	Jesus Delgado	P	R	R	6' 0"	225	04-19-1984
6	Jesus Duenas	P	R	R	6' 0"	180	08-11-1987
12	Abraham Elvira	P	L	L	5' 11"	176	09-11-1982
31	Gerardo Garcia	P	R	R	5' 9"	183	07-02-1989
23	Erubiel Gonzalez	P	R	R	5' 11"	205	06-13-1981
99	Miguel Gonzalez	P	R	R	6' 3"	200	11-07-1978
	Juan Jesus Martinez	P	R	R	5' 11"	190	07-15-1978
48	Leobardo Moreno	P	L	L	6' 0"	190	06-04-1971
10	Hector Navarro	P	R	R	6' 0"	220	08-29-1979
19	Jailen Peguero	P	R	R	6' 0"	185	01-04-1981
34	Carlos Santamaria	P	L	L	6' 0"	180	10-15-1991
15	Joel Vargas	P	R	R	5' 9"	170	03-09-1974
8	Oscar Verdugo	P	R	R	6' 1"	172	01-21-1990

No	CATCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thw	Ht	Wt	DOB
57	Hector Paez	C	L	R	5' 11"	190	03-31-1978
40	Leonardo Rodriguez	C	R	R	6' 2"	190	08-10-1980

No	INFIELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thw	Ht	Wt	DOB
25	Manuel Bobadilla	3B	S	R	5' 11"	192	09-20-1983
22	Rufino Candelario	SS	R	R	5' 9"	176	10-26-1985
19	Ramon Castro	2B	R	R	6' 0"	195	10-23-1979
3	Jose Chavez	2B	S	R	5' 10"	180	01-02-1985
13	Hector Hernandez	SS	L	R	5' 8"	175	01-21-1985
78	Francisco Mendez	1B	L	R	6' 0"	163	01-06-1978

No	OUTFIELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thw	Ht	Wt	DOB
2	Luis Arredondo	OF	L	L	5' 7"	185	12-11-1971
30	Victor Diaz	OF	R	R	6' 0"	210	12-10-1981
33	Daniel Fornes	OF	L	L	6' 1"	210	08-21-1979
24	Jorge Guzman	OF	L	R	6' 3"	215	11-28-1983
59	Enrique Osorio	LF	R	R	5' 6"	161	01-14-1985
27	Jovanny Rosario	OF	S	R	5' 9"	160	04-12-1985

**MANAGER: Daniel Fernandez**

**COACHES: Bernardo Calvo, Francisco Candelario, Enrique Couoh, Manny Francois, Juan Carlos Hernandez, Jose Lavagnino, Leonardo Perez, Juan Tejeda**

## **Veracruz, Veracruz (home of the Aguilas)**



With about 500,000 residents, Veracruz ranks as one of the most humid cities in the country. It was the first town in Mexico to be founded by the Spanish conquistadores, just days after Hernando Cortes landed on Good Friday of 1519. The original site was just to the north of the present city, but the Spaniards finally settled on the current location by 1589. Veracruz immediately became Mexico's most important seaport, a position it would hold well into the last century. As a result, it has also been the scene of many military battles over the centuries.

In addition to the Spanish, Veracruz has been occupied twice each by French and U.S.A. forces during the past 200 years, most recently in 1914 when U.S. Marines took over to protect their government's interests during the Mexican Revolution of that time.

Despite a somewhat somber military history, Veracruz is one of the liveliest cities in Mexico. The annual nine-day winter Carnival celebrated there ranks among the most-raucous on the American continent, and the Festival del Caribe in late August features a huge celebration of the arts. While tourism has never been a centerpiece of Veracruz' economy, people who do visit find it one of the most fun-loving and enjoyable places in the country.

The cultural center of Veracruz is the Plaza de las Armas, a tree-filled square that has been occupied by locals and visitors (some of them invading armies) for generations. There is perpetual activity at this Zocalo from morning through night. The Plaza is surrounded by shops and restaurants, as well as the Municipal Palace (built in 1608 and renovated in the 1700's) and the Virgen de la Asuncion cathedral, which dates back to 1731. Veracruz' port features a crafts market, several prominent old buildings and a miles-long Malecon seaside walkway.

Baseball has had a long, storied history in Veracruz, too. The Aguilas date back to the 1930's, and the city has been home to five Liga champions (the last pennant came in 1970). "Cool Papa" Bell won the first Triple Crown in Mexican League history in 1940 playing under legendary strongman owner Jorge Pasquel. The modern-day Eagles play their Liga home games at Parque Beto Avila, one of the smallest venues in Mexico with seating for about 7,000 fans. Veracruz is also home to a winter baseball league that draws many Mexican League veterans, and is claimed by some to be on a par competitively with the western Mexican Pacific League.





## **YUCATAN LEONES**

**Unidad Deportiva Kukulcan, Circuito Colonias, Col. Morelos  
Merida, Yucatan, Mexico 97000**

**PHONE:** (999) 926-3022

**EMAIL:** leonesy@sureste.com

**WEBSITE:** www.leonesdeyucatan.com.mx

**PRESIDENT:** Gustavo Ricalde Puerto

**GENERAL MANAGER:** Wilbert Valle Acevedo

**FIELD MANAGER:** Lino Rivera

**BALLPARK:** Estadio Kukulcan

**CAPACITY:** 16,000

**2010 RECORD:** 54-50

A capricious ruling by the Liga office handed the Leones the fourth and final LMB South playoff berth in 2010 despite fewer points than second-half champion Campeche, but Yucatan should get another postseason berth this year the old-fashioned way: By earning it.

Not that the perennial contenders were chopped liver last year. 1B Sandy Madera (.383/18/70) hit 10 bombs in 33 games after being traded to Yucatan by Saltillo and gives the Leones a legit power threat. OF Hiram Bocachica (.293/6/30 with Mexico City and Reynosa last year), C Said Gutierrez (.278/13/55), 2B Oswaldo Morejon (.303/5/48) and 1B Fernando Valenzuela, Jr. (.308/6/49) are all useful hitters, but Yucatan teams historically are built on defense and pitching, and 2011 should be no different under manager Lino Rivera.

While the Leones had an uncharacteristically charitable 4.98 ERA, they still have four-time All-Star lefty Oscar Rivera (7-5/3.48) atop the rotation and righty Wilton Chavez (9-5/5.12) should pitch better than he did last year. If these guys have good seasons and closer Jose Vargas (128 saves the past five years) pitches to his ability, the Leones should improve on last season's performance.

Yucatan should make the LMB South playoffs (along with Quintana Roo, Oaxaca and either Campeche or Veracruz) and could make a run at the Finals, but it'll be tough for any team in the South to win the pennant this season.

### **2011 YUCATAN LEONES home schedule**

**MAR** 19 Campeche, 21-23 Mexico City, 25-27 Saltillo

**APR** 4-6 Monclova, 8-10 Laguna, 15-17 Tabasco, 19-21 Puebla, 25-27 Quintana Roo

**MAY** 17-19 Reynosa, 20-22 Monterrey, 21-Jun 2 Campeche

**JUN** 10-12 Oaxaca, 13-15 Quintana Roo, 21-22 Veracruz, 24-26 Minatitlan

**JUL** 2-3 Oaxaca, 7-8 Veracruz, 9-10 Minatitlan, 14-15 Campeche, 25-26 Tabasco

# YUCATAN LEONES 2011 Roster

No.	PITCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
30	Jafet Canto	P	R	R			09-06-1980
81	Oscar Bustillos	P	R	R	6'0"	198	12-10-1979
46	Guillermo Carrillo	P	R	R	6' 1"	225	04-19-1984
23	Linder Castro	P	R	R	5' 11"	213	04-04-1991
40	Rene Coss	P	R	R	6' 1"	185	09-30-1988
70	Manuel Flores	P	R	R	5' 9"	165	02-20-1986
35	Conrado Garza	P	L	L	5' 10"	200	10-16-1979
10	Santiago Gutierrez	P	L	L	6' 1"	205	02-26-1986
27	Luis Navarro	P	R	R	6' 1"	190	09-24-1972
45	Dwayne Pollok	P	R	R	6' 3"	195	11-12-1980
6	Oscar Rivera	P	L	L	6' 2"	185	04-13-1981
33	Luis Rodriguez	P	L	L	5' 7"	165	07-22-1990
26	Eduardo Salgado	P	R	R	6' 1"	205	10-13-1973
45	Jose Vargas	P	R	R	6' 0"	175	05-23-1977
48	Ivan Zavala	P	R	R	6' 3"	181	12-27-1986

No	CATCHERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
31	Gerardo Bustamante	C	R	R	5' 8"	184	06-10-1986
59	Said Gutierrez	C	R	R	5' 10"	230	03-26-1980
13	Israel Nunez	C	R	R	6' 1"	200	09-01-1985

No	INFIELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
14	Fernando Alejos	1B	R	R	6' 0"	178	01-18-1978
11	Luis Borges	SS	L	R	5' 11"	187	07-10-1980
72	Sandy Madera	1B	R	R	6' 2"	176	08-11-1980
4	Oswaldo Morejon	2B	R	R	5'9"	185	08-04-1978
8	Carlos Piste	1B	S	R	6' 1"	179	03-08-1985
5	Alejandro Rivero	IF	R	R	5' 9"	172	06-08-1988
34	Fernando Valenzuela Jr.	DH	L	L	5' 10"	210	09-30-1982

No	OUTFIELDERS	Pos	Bat	Thr	Ht	Wt	Birthdate
55	Hiram Bocachica	OF	R	R	5' 11"	195	03-04-1976
25	Luis Carlos Garcia	LF	S	R	6' 3"	215	09-22-1975
20	Ricardo Gastelum	OF	L	L	5' 8"	184	03-20-1984
57	Eder Salcedo	LF	R	R	5' 10"	190	10-26-1982
51	Raul Sanchez	OF	R	R	5' 9"	192	10-18-1972

**MANAGER: Lino Rivera**

**COACHES: Leonardo Acosta, Antonio Aguilera, Raul Ortega, Roberto Perez**

## **Merida, Yucatan (home of the Leones)**



Merida is located in the northwest part of the state of Yucatan, about 22 miles south of the Gulf of Mexico. According to the 2005 census, Merida has approximately 780,000 residents, making it Mexico's 12th-largest city.

Merida was first settled in 1542 by Spanish conquistador Francisco de Montejo, although the site had actually been a center of Mayan activities for centuries prior to the arrival of the Spaniards. In fact, it was known as "The City of Five Hills" because of the presence of five pyramids built by the Mayans. As a result, many historians consider Merida the oldest continuously-occupied city in the Western Hemisphere. Carved Mayan stones were used to build Spanish colonial buildings that are plentiful in downtown Merida, and much of the local architecture comes from the colonial period of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Like Campeche to the west, Merida was a walled city in response to periodic revolts by the indigenous Mayans. Some of the old gates remain, but Merida has evolved into a modern city.

As the cultural capital of the state of Yucatan, Merida offers visitors many things to do. There are numerous museums, art galleries, theaters, shops and restaurants in town. It should be noted that food in Yucatan is far from what the rest of the world calls "Mexican," with influences from Mayan, Caribbean, European and Middle Eastern cultures creating an entirely unique cuisine. Merida has a symphony orchestra and the Jose Peon Contreras Theatre featured jazz, opera and classical music. The Paseo de Montejo is dotted by several original sculptures, and the MACAY Museum annually exhibits new sculptures for ten months.

The Yucatan Leones play their home games at Parque Kukulcan, a 13,600-seat ballpark that opened in March 1982, and the team is usually among the leaders in LMB attendance figures. Parque Kukulcan is a pitcher's park, with the Gulf of Mexico marine air coming from 22 miles to the north combining with fairly deep outfield dimensions to limit fly balls that would be homers in other Mexican stadiums to warning track outs in Merida.

The Leones have won three Mexican League pennants, in 1957, 1984 and 2006. Last season, Yucatan had a 54-50 record and was awarded the fourth and final playoff berth in the LMB South before being eliminated by Puebla in six games in the first round.

## MEXICAN LEAGUE 2010 SEASON IN REVIEW

The Saltillo Saraperos were on the brink of playoff elimination in the first round before mounting a furious comeback and winning 11 of their next 14 games to cop their second consecutive Mexican League pennant in 2010.

The Sarape Makers trailed Mexico City, 3 games to 1, before reeling off three straight victories (including two on the road) to win that series. Saltillo then dispatched Monterrey in six games and Puebla in five to complete the repeat, ending the season with a resounding 21-2 win over the Parrots on August 16 as Refugio “Cuco” Cervantes clubbed two homers to support a solid complete-game effort from former major league pitcher José Mercedes. Mercedes registered 90 strikes out of 120 pitches while walking no Puebla batters.

Pitcher Danny Rodriguez was named Playoff MVP after going 5-0 with a 0.66 ERA for Saltillo, which was also fueled by Cervantes’ nine postseason homers in just 18 contests for manager Orlando Sanchez’ club.

Puebla reached the finals despite losing batting champion Willis Otañez for their first two series due to a foot injury. Sub Valentin Gámez picked up the slack by batting .365 in Otañez’ place while Parrots pitcher Andrés Meza posted a 4-0 postseason record.

Saltillo barely qualified for the playoffs after a tepid second half landed them in a three-way tie with Chihuahua and Reynosa for the final two playoff berths in the northern Madera Zone point chase. All three teams ended with 12 points apiece (points in the Mexican League are based on a team’s finish in the standings for each half of the regular season), but Reynosa was eliminated because their 56-51 overall record was the worst of the three teams.

In the first half, Monterrey’s 32-21 record held off Saltillo (30-23) and both Mexico City and Reynosa (29-24) for first place and the eight accompanying points. Monterrey and Saltillo each had indifferent second halves as Mexico City (35-16) beat out surprising Monclova (33-19) for first. Mexico City dominated the Liga offensively, winning the Triple Crown of team batting by hitting .322 with 110 homers and 617 RBIs.

Puebla got off to a tremendous start in the southern Hidalgo Zone, winning the first half crown by 7.5 games with a 37-14 mark. The Parrots cooled off to finish four games over .500 in the second half, but their 66-39 season record was the best in Mexico. Oaxaca turned in a 60-45 ledger in 2010, finishing second both halves and ending up with 14 points (just behind Puebla’s 14.5). Then things got interesting.

Campeche was just 21-32 in the first half, but turned things around with a 31-18 mark to win the Hidalgo Zone's second half title and finish tied for third in points with Quintana Roo at 12.5 each. The league office gave Quintana Roo the third playoff seed due to their superior record but also awarded Yucatan the fourth berth over Campeche despite just 11.5 points on the season for the Lions.

Puebla's Otañez was named the season MVP after the former Toronto and Baltimore infielder led the circuit with a .393 average while belting 12 homers and driving in 76 runs despite missing the final two weeks of the regular season with his foot injury. Otañez held off Sandy Madera for the batting crown. Madera, who led the winter Mexican Pacific League with a .413 average for Los Mochis in 2009-10, batted .383 and cracked 18 homers for Saltillo and Yucatan (to whom Madera was dealt in a midseason trade for outfielder Willie Romero).

Other notable Mexican League batsmen included Veracruz outfielder Victor Diaz, who led the loop with 29 homers and 96 RBIs, and former big league outfielder Ruben Rivera, who hit .366 with 21 homers and 16 stolen bases for Campeche.

Longtime minor leaguer Bobby Cramer was named Pitcher of the Year for his monster season with Quintana Roo, topping the league in six categories while going 13-3 with a 2.95 ERA and 123 strikeouts. Ex-MLB pitcher Mac Suzuki won the ERA title with a 2.89 mark during a 9-4 season for Chihuahua, and Puebla's Luis Ramirez was Reliever of the Year after leading the circuit with 30 saves. Campeche's Héctor Velázquez was named Rookie of the Year after turning in a 6-4 record and finishing second to Suzuki with a 2.93 ERA.

Puebla skipper Alfonso "Houston" Jiménez was voted Manager of the Year.

**MAS ENTRADAS:** *Mexican League attendance dropped 12 percent in 2010 as 2,714,955 fans watched 788 regular season games for an average of 3,445 per opening. Monterrey led the league at 356,755, while Nuevo Laredo was last at 65,597...Despite some concerns about drug cartel violence at Mexican ballparks, only one game was directly affected. Gunfire outside Reynosa's ballpark on July 11 during a Broncos-Monterrey game caused both teams and 1,638 fans to instinctively duck or find cover. The game was suspended and later completed in Monterrey...Oaxaca's Eduardo Vasconcelos Stadium was shut down for different reasons last April. A labor dispute between workers and the university that controls the 7,200-seat ballpark led to the shift of a Warriors home series to Veracruz and a possible midseason move of the team. The dispute was resolved with no further loss of home games...Mexico City will be getting a new ballpark. The Red Devils have spent the past 11 seasons at Foro Sol, which seats 26,000 for baseball but was originally built for concerts and other events and has not been a good fit for the team. Ground was expected to be broken for the new facility in September 2010...After two seasons of restricting teams to games against clubs within their own divisions to reduce travel expenses, the Mexican League may return to limited inter-zonal play in 2011. League president Plinio Escalante says such a move would come "because the fans demand it"...Minatitlán pitcher Isidro Márquez broke Ramón Arano's league record for games pitched by appearing in his 812<sup>th</sup> game on June 5. The 45-year-old Marquez went on to lead all pitchers with 64 appearances, earning 17 saves.*

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# **MEXICAN LEAGUE 2010 Standings**

## **First Half Standings**

<b>ZONA MADERO</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>PCT.</b>	<b>GB</b>	<b>HOME</b>	<b>AWAY</b>	<b>PTS</b>
Monterrey SULTANES .....	32	21	.604	---	17-11	15-10	8.0
Saltillo SARAPEROS .....	30	23	.566	2.0	16-9	14-14	7.0
Mexico City DIABLOS ROJOS .....	29	24	.547	3.0	18-10	11-14	6.5
Reynosa BRONCOS .....	29	24	.547	3.0	14-11	15-13	6.0
Chihuahua DORADOS .....	28	25	.528	4.0	18-10	10-15	5.5
Laguna VAQUEROS .....	25	28	.472	7.0	15-10	10-18	5.0
Monclova ACEREROS .....	20	33	.377	12.0	12-13	8-20	4.5
Nuevo Laredo TECOLOTES .....	19	34	.358	13.0	12-16	7-18	4.0
<b>ZONA HIDALGO</b>							
Puebla PERICOS .....	37	14	.725	---	22-6	15-8	8.0
Oaxaca GUERREROS .....	30	22	.577	7.5	17-10	13-12	7.0
Quintana Roo TIGRES .....	29	22	.569	8.0	16-7	13-15	6.5
Yucatan LEONES .....	28	25	.528	10.0	18-7	10-18	6.0
Veracruz AGUILAS .....	24	29	.453	14.0	14-11	10-18	5.5
Tabasco OLMECAS .....	22	31	.415	16.0	15-13	7-18	5.0
Campeche PIRATAS .....	21	32	.396	17.0	11-17	10-15	4.5
Minatitlan PETROLEROS .....	18	34	.346	19.5	9-16	9-18	4.0

## **Second Half Standings**

<b>ZONA MADERO</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>PCT.</b>	<b>GB</b>	<b>HOME</b>	<b>AWAY</b>	<b>PTS</b>
Mexico City DIABLOS ROJOS .....	35	16	.686	---	18-6	17-10	8.0
Monclova ACEREROS .....	33	19	.635	2.5	20-8	13-11	7.0
Chihuahua DORADOS .....	31	23	.574	5.5	15-9	16-14	6.5
Reynosa BRONCOS .....	27	27	.500	9.5	18-12	9-15	6.0
Monterrey SULTANES .....	26	27	.491	10.0	15-12	11-15	5.5
Saltillo SARAPEROS .....	25	26	.490	10.0	14-12	11-14	5.0
Laguna VAQUEROS .....	20	34	.370	16.5	11-16	9-18	4.5
Nuevo Laredo TECOLOTES .....	13	38	.255	22.0	7-17	6-21	4.0
<b>ZONA HIDALGO</b>							
Campeche PIRATAS .....	31	18	.633	---	14-7	17-11	8.0
Oaxaca GUERREROS .....	30	23	.566	3.0	14-10	16-13	7.0
Puebla PERICOS .....	29	25	.537	4.5	17-10	12-15	6.5
Quintana Roo TIGRES .....	27	25	.519	5.5	17-11	10-14	6.0
Yucatan LEONES .....	26	25	.510	6.0	16-10	10-15	5.5
Minatitlan PETROLEROS .....	26	26	.500	6.5	19-10	7-16	5.0
Tabasco OLMECAS .....	24	29	.453	9.0	12-15	12-14	4.5
Veracruz AGUILAS .....	15	37	.288	17.5	11-15	4-22	4.0

## **Composite Standings**

<b>ZONA MADERO</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>PCT.</b>	<b>GB</b>	<b>HOME</b>	<b>AWAY</b>	<b>PTS</b>
Mexico City DIABLOS ROJOS .....	64	40	.615	---	36-16	28-24	14.5
Monterrey SULTANES .....	58	48	.547	7.0	32-23	26-25	13.5
Chihuahua DORADOS .....	59	48	.551	6.5	33-19	26-29	12.0
Saltillo SARAPEROS .....	55	49	.529	9.0	30-21	25-28	12.0
Reynosa BRONCOS .....	56	51	.523	9.5	32-23	24-28	12.0
Monclova ACEREROS .....	53	52	.505	11.5	32-21	21-31	11.5
Laguna VAQUEROS .....	45	62	.421	20.5	26-26	19-36	9.5
Nuevo Laredo TECOLOTES .....	32	72	.308	32.0	19-33	13-39	8.0
<b>ZONA HIDALGO</b>							
Puebla PERICOS .....	66	39	.629	---	39-16	27-23	14.5
Oaxaca GUERREROS .....	60	45	.571	6.0	31-20	29-25	14.0
Quintana Roo TIGRES .....	56	47	.544	9.0	33-18	23-29	12.5
Campeche PIRATAS .....	52	50	.510	12.5	25-24	27-26	12.5
Yucatan LEONES .....	54	50	.519	11.5	34-17	20-33	11.5
Tabasco OLMECAS .....	46	60	.434	20.5	27-28	19-32	9.5
Veracruz AGUILAS .....	39	66	.371	27.0	25-26	14-40	9.5
Minatitlan PETROLEROS .....	44	60	.423	21.5	28-26	16-34	9.0

# ***MEXICAN LEAGUE 2010 Statistical Leaders***

## **BATTING AVERAGE**

Willis Otanez, PUE	.393
Sandy Madera, SAL-YUC	.383
Carlos Rivera, MIN	.373
Ivan Terrazas, MEX	.368
Japhet Amador, MEX	.366

## **HOME RUNS**

Victor Diaz, VER	29
Jorge Guzman, VER	21
Ruben Rivera, CAM	21
Luis Alfonso Garcia, MTY	21
Jesse Gutierrez, REY	21

## **RUNS BATTED IN**

Victor Diaz, VER	96
Refugio Cervantes, SAL	90
Francisco Mendez, CHI	88
Emmanuel Valdez, LAG	88
Luis Alfonso Garcia, MTY	86

## **STOLEN BASES**

Alexis Gomez, LAG	37
Henry Mateo, LAG-MEX	21
Chris Roberson, MTY	21
Ivan Araujo, LAG	20
Daniel Hinojosa, MTY	20

## **RUNS SCORED**

Oscar Robles, MEX	95
Sandy Madera, SAL-YUC	86
Victor Mercedes, OAX	83
Omar Mendoza, CHI	82
Francisco Mendez, CHI	82

## **HITS**

Sandy Madera, SAL-YUC	146
Victor Mercedes, OAX	143
Jose Rodriguez, SAL	141
Jesse Gutierrez, REY	137
Carlos Rivera, MIN	137

## **ON-BASE PERCENTAGE**

Francisco Mendez, CHI	.485
D'Angelo Jimenez, YUC	.471
Willis Otanez, PUE	.470
Emmanuel Valdez, LAG	.460
Ruben Rivera, CAM	.456

## **SLUGGING PERCENTAGE**

Sandy Madera, SAL-YUC	.630
Japhet Amador, MEX	.615
Ruben Rivera, CAM	.610
Mario Valenzuela, MEX	.609
Victor Diaz, VER	.592

## **WINS**

Bobby Cramer, TIG	13
Esteban Yan, MEX	12
Javier Martinez, MEX	11
Esteban Hernandez, SAL	11
Lorenzo Barcelo, PUE	11
Omar Espinoza, PUE	11

## **EARNED-RUN AVERAGE**

Mac Suzuki, CHI	2.89
Hector Velazquez, CAM	2.93
Bobby Cramer, TIG	2.95
Marco Tovar, REY	3.24
Javier Martinez, MEX	3.31

## **STRIKEOUTS**

Bobby Cramer, TIG	123
Sergio Valenzuela, OAX	94
Mac Suzuki, CHI	88
Nerio Rodriguez, MVA	88
Roberto Ramirez, MEX	88

## **SAVES**

Luis Ramirez, PUE	30
Jose Silva, CHI	26
Scott Chiasson, TIG	24
Yoel Hernandez, OAX	24
Francisco Villegas, TAB	24

## **COMPLETE GAMES**

Bobby Cramer, TIG	5
Mac Suzuki, CHI	3
Alejandro Armenta, CAM	3
Juan Pena, TAB	3
Travis Minix, SAL	2
Alfredo Garcia, MVA	2

## **SHUTOUTS**

Bobby Cramer, TIG	3
15 pitchers	1

## **INNINGS PITCHED**

Lorenzo Barcelo, PUE	135.2
Mac Suzuki, CHI	131.0
Sergio Valenzuela, OAX	128.2
Bobby Cramer, TIG	128.0
Jasiel Acosta, MVA	126.0

## **WALKS+HITS PER INNING (WHIP)**

Bobby Cramer, TIG	1.12
Esteban Yan, MEX	1.22
Francisco Cordova, TIG	1.30
William Vizcarra, TAB	1.30
Rosman Garcia, LAR	1.30
Nerio Rodriguez, MVA	1.30

# MEXICAN LEAGUE 2010 Playoff Results

## **DIVISION SEMIFINALS**

**NORTH: MONTERREY defeated CHIHUAHUA, 4 games to 1**

TUE, July 20 Monterrey 6, CHIHUAHUA 3 (Sultanes starter Edgar Gonzalez pitched 6 innings of 1-run ball)  
 WED, July 21 Monterrey 7, CHIHUAHUA 3 (Humberto Cota's 2-run double keyed a 5-run 1st inning for Monterrey)  
 FRI, July 23 Chihuahua 6, MONTERREY 4 (Chihuahua scored 5 runs in 1st inning to chase Sultanes starter Walter Silva)  
 SAT, July 24 MONTERREY 5, Chihuahua 1 (Sergio Mora took a perfect game into the 5th, tossed 7 scoreless innings)  
 SUN, July 25 MONTERREY 3, Chihuahua 0 (Edgar Gonzalez pitched 8 shutout innings in series clincher for Sultanes)

**NORTH: SALTILLO defeated MEXICO CITY, 4 games to 3**

TUE, July 20 Saltillo 11, MEXICO CITY 1 (Noe Munoz hit three doubles and drove in 3 runs for Saltillo)  
 WED, July 21 MEXICO CITY 12, Saltillo 4 (Diablos' Japhet Amador hit grand slam in 1st inning)  
 FRI, July 23 Mexico City 7, SALTILLO 2 (Mexico City overcame 2-0 deficit with 5-run 8th inning)  
 SAT, July 24 Mexico City 8, SALTILLO 6 (Ivan Terrazas went 5-for-5 with a homer for Diablos)  
 SUN, July 25 SALTILLO 7, Mexico City 0 (Hector Daniel Rodriguez tossed a no-hitter to keep Saraperos alive in series)  
 TUE, July 27 SALTILLO 14, MEXICO CITY 13 (Saltillo whacked 3 homers, held off Diablos' late rally for win)  
 WED, July 28 Saltillo 11, MEXICO CITY 4 (Christian Presichi's 3-run homer keyed 5-run seventh for Saltillo)

**SOUTH: PUEBLA defeated YUCATAN, 4 games to 2**

WED, July 21 PUEBLA 12, Yucatan 6 (Pericos' Cesar Tapia was 3-for-4 with 4 RBIs, including 2-run double)  
 THU, July 22 Yucatan 6, PUEBLA 5 (Leones' Raul Sanchez scored game-winning run on Jose Cobos wild pitch in 8th)  
 SAT, July 24 Puebla 3, YUCATAN 1 (Lorenzo Barcelo let in 1 run over 8 innings for Pericos in 106-degree heat)  
 SUN, July 25 YUCATAN 4, Puebla 1 (Oswaldo Morejon's two-run homer in the 5th for the Leones broke a 1-1 deadlock)  
 MON, July 26 Puebla 3, YUCATAN 2 (Pericos' Andres Meza carried a shutout into the 6<sup>th</sup> inning for his second playoff win)  
 THU, July 29 PUEBLA 4, Yucatan 3 (Puebla's three-run seventh inning overcame 3-1 deficit in series decider)

**SOUTH: OAXACA defeated QUINTANA ROO, 4 games to 3**

WED, July 21 OAXACA 7, Quintana Roo 6 (Guerreros scored 5 runs in bottom of 7th to overcome 6-2 deficit)  
 THU, July 22 OAXACA 9, Quintana Roo 5 (Jaime Brena went 3-for-4 with triple, 3 RBIs and run scored for Oaxaca)  
 SAT, July 24 QUINTANA ROO 8, Oaxaca 3 (Iker Franco's 1st inning 3-run homer gave Tigres lead they'd never relinquish)  
 MON, July 26 QUINTANA ROO 2, Oaxaca 0 (Arturo Barradas and Bobby Cramer combined on two-day, rain-delayed shutout)  
 TUE, July 27 QUINTANA ROO 7, Oaxaca 1 (Kevin Flores' grand slam keyed 5-run fifth as Tigres won third in row at home)  
 THU, July 29 OAXACA 3, Quintana Roo 2 (Reliever Yoel Hernandez' two scoreless innings saved win for Guerreros)  
 FRI, July 30 OAXACA 5, Quintana Roo 4 (Victor Mercedes' bases-loaded walk-off RBI single won series for Oaxaca)

## **DIVISION FINALS**

**NORTH: SALTILLO defeated MONTERREY, 4 games to 2**

SAT, July 31 SALTILLO 4, Monterrey 0 (Hector Daniel Rodriguez allowed four hits over six shutout innings for Saraperos)  
 SUN, August 1 Monterrey 5, SALTILLO 2 (Willie Romero went 3-for-5 for Sultanes, who were outthit 9-to-5 by Saltillo)  
 TUE, August 3 MONTERREY 14, Saltillo 11 (Sultanes overcame 5-run deficit, Luis A. Garcia and Willie Romero 3 hit each)  
 WED, August 4 Saltillo 4, MONTERREY 3 (Refugio Cervantes hit 6<sup>th</sup> playoff HR in 9 games as Saraperos evened series)  
 THU, August 5 Saltillo 14, MONTERREY 3 (Saltillo scored 7 2nd inning runs, Willie Romero and Jose Rodriguez 3 hits each)  
 SAT, August 7 SALTILLO 6, Monterrey 4 (Cecilio Garibaldi K'd Agustin Murillo with bases loaded in 9<sup>th</sup> to end series)

**SOUTH: PUEBLA defeated OAXACA, 4 games to 2**

SUN, August 1 PUEBLA 6, Oaxaca 2 (Cesar Tapia hit 2-run HR and Lorenzo Barleco pitched 7.1 innings in Pericos win)  
 MON, August 2 PUEBLA 7, Oaxaca 6 (Miguel Torrero scored game-winning run on tenth inning error for Puebla)  
 WED, August 4 OAXACA 3, Puebla 2 (Christian Quintero's two-run HR in bottom of 8<sup>th</sup> was key hit for Guerreros victory)  
 THU, August 5 Puebla 14, OAXACA 9 (Omar De La Torre collected 4 hits, Rene Reyes and Valentin Gamez had 3 hits each)  
 SAT, August 7 OAXACA 5, Puebla 4 (Jolbert Cabrera's walkoff homer in 9<sup>th</sup> won game to keep Guerreros alive in series)  
 SUN, August 8 PUEBLA 8, Oaxaca 3 (Andres Meza allowed 1 run in 7 IP, Serafin Rodriguez was 3-for-5 in Pericos' clincher)

## **BICENTENNIAL SERIES**

**SALTILLO defeated PUEBLA, 4 games to 1**

TUE, August 10 Saltillo 6, PUEBLA 5 (Willie Romero had 3 hits as Saraperos overcame 4-run deficit despite being outthit 12-8)  
 THU, August 12 Saltillo 4, PUEBLA 3 (Gabriel Martinez drilled 2-run homer in 8<sup>th</sup> to give Saltillo win in rain-suspended game)  
 SAT, August 14 Puebla 8, SALTILLO 5 (Rene Reyes and Ricardo Serrano each had 3-run homer in Pericos' 8-run first inning)  
 SUN, August 15 SALTILLO 5, Puebla 0 (Hector Daniel Rodriguez tossed 8 shutout innings for 5<sup>th</sup> postseason victory)  
 MON, August 16 SALTILLO 21, Puebla 2 (Refugio Cervantes crashed 2 homers and Jose Mercedes tossed complete game)

**NOTE: Home teams listed in CAPITAL letters**

# **BASEBALL MEXICO AWARDS: SUMMER 2010**

## **MOST VALUABLE PLAYER: Willis Otanez, Puebla Pericos**

The Pericos got off to a very hot start in 2010 and went on to post the best record in the Mexican League at 66-39 before beating Yucatan and Oaxaca in the playoffs and reaching the Bicentennial Series. Otanez, a former MLB infielder, was the linchpin of a Puebla squad that hit .320 as a team. The 37-year-old Dominican led the Liga with a .393 batting average and added 12 homers, scored 71 runs and had 76 RBIs in 91 games despite missing the last two weeks of the regular season with a foot injury.

Otanez began the season with a 22-game hitting streak. When his 15-game hit skein at the end of 2009 is factored in, his 37-game streak broke the old LMB record of 36 set by Saltillo's Luis de los Santos in 2000.

## **PITCHER OF THE YEAR: Bobby Cramer, Quintana Roo Tigres**

2010 was not a standout season for Mexican League pitchers, but this longtime minor leaguer was the exception. Cramer, a 2001 Seattle draft pick who spent several seasons in the Oakland organization before heading south of the border to pitch in Cancun, led the Liga in several pitching categories, including wins (13), complete games (5), shutouts (3), strikeouts (123) and WHIP (1.12). The California product also showed remarkable control for a lefty, issuing just 27 walks in his 128 innings pitched for the Tigres, yet gave up only six homers all season (also a remarkable figure for a control pitcher...ask Jamie Moyer about that).

After the season, Cramer headed back north to pitch for Oakland's AAA affiliate in Sacramento.

## **NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR: Sandy Madera, Yucatan Leones**

This award could just as easily have gone to Cramer, but Madera had a daily impact on his team's fortunes whether he was playing for Saltillo or Yucatan (to whom he was traded in a midseason swap for outfielder Willie Romero). Coming off a spectacular Mexican Pacific League season in which he led the Mex Pac with a .413 average for Los Mochis, Madera clobbered Mexican League pitching with a .383 average (second to Otanez) along with 18 homers and 86 runs. A first baseman who turned 30 in August, Madera even swiped 10 bases in the regular season.

Madera bounced around the minors for 12 years before debuting in Mexico. He may have found a permanent baseball home.

## **MANAGER OF THE YEAR: Eddie Diaz, Oaxaca Guerreros**

It was hard to pass over Saltillo manager Orlando Sanchez, who led his team to a second straight Liga pennant, but Diaz gets the nod over Chihuahua's Chico Rodriguez because they had tougher jobs of turning around moribund teams in 2010. Diaz piloted the Guerreros through a season that included the very real possibility of the team having to move out of Oaxaca because of a ballpark labor shutdown, but the former Brewers shortstop guided the club to an 18-game improvement from a 42-63 record in 2009 to a 60-45 mark this year and an LMB South finals berth against Puebla.

## **BBM 2010 Mexican League All-Star Team**

<b>1B</b>	<b>Sandy Madera, Yucatan</b> (Finished second in Liga with .386 average and hit 18 homers)
<b>2B</b>	<b>Jose Rodriguez, Saltillo</b> (Hit .333 with 12 homers and led LMB second sackers with 64 RBIs)
<b>3B</b>	<b>Oscar Robles, Mexico City</b> (Turned in .355 average, led Liga with 95 runs and stole 18 bases)
<b>SS</b>	<b>Rolando Acosta, Minatitlan</b> (Led LMB shortstops in hitting {.327}, RBIs {51} and scored 55 runs)
<b>LF</b>	<b>Victor Diaz, Veracruz</b> (Topped circuit with 29 homers and 96 RBIs, stole 12 bases and hit .298)
<b>CF</b>	<b>Alexis Gomez, Laguna</b> (Speedster easily led LMB with 37 steals and hit .352 with 16 homers)
<b>RF</b>	<b>Ruben Rivera, Campeche</b> (Ex-MLBer had great season, batting .360 with 21 HRs and 73 RBIs)
<b>C</b>	<b>Erick Rodriguez, Oaxaca</b> (Hit .327 with 10 homers and 61 RBIs in a tough league for catchers)
<b>DH</b>	<b>Willis Otanez, Puebla</b> (Led Liga with .393 average after starting season with 22-game hit streak)
<b>LHSP</b>	<b>Bobby Cramer, Quintana Roo</b> (Best in LMB with 13 wins, 123 Ks, 3 shutouts and 1.12 WHIP)
<b>RHSP</b>	<b>Mac Suzuki, Chihuahua</b> (Led LMB with 2.89 ERA, went 9-4 with 3 CGs for resurgent Dorados)
<b>RP</b>	<b>Luis Rivera, Puebla</b> (Was top reliever in Liga with 30 saves and had 3.86 ERA in hitter's park)

-Selections made by BBM editor Bruce Baskin

## MEXICAN LEAGUE BALPARKS

***Estadio Nelson Barrera Romellon, CAMPECHE (Piratas)***



***Parque Beto Avila, CANCUN (Tigres)***

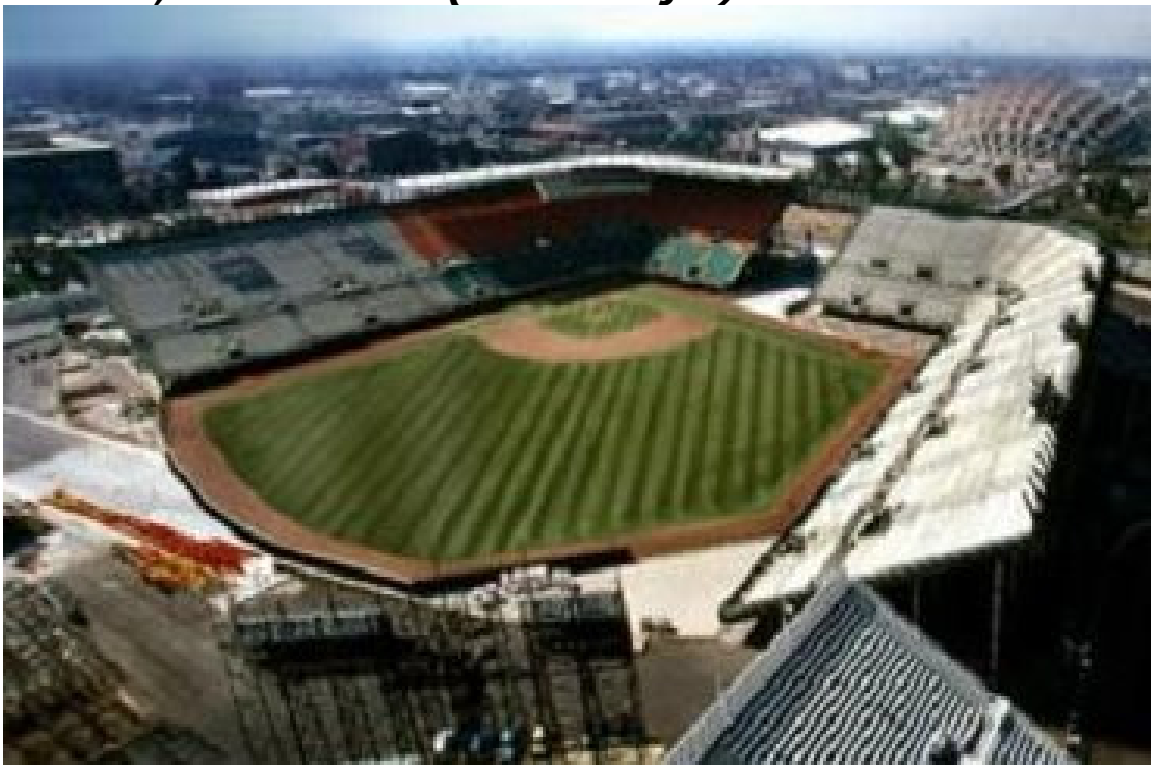




***Estadio Kukulcan, MERIDA (Leones)***



***Foro Sol, MEXICO CITY (Diablos Rojos)***



***Parque 18 de Marzo de 1938, MINATITLAN (Petroleros)***



***Estadio Monclova, MONCLOVA (Acereros)***





***Estadio Monterrey, MONTERREY (Sultanes)***



***Estadio Eduardo Vasconcelos, OAXACA (Guerreros)***



***Estadio Hermanos Serdan, PUEBLA (Pericos)***



***Parque Adolfo Lopez Mateos, REYNOSA (Broncos)***





**Estadio Francisco I. Madero, SALTILLO (Saraperos)**



***Estadio de la Revolucion, TORREON (Vaqueros)***



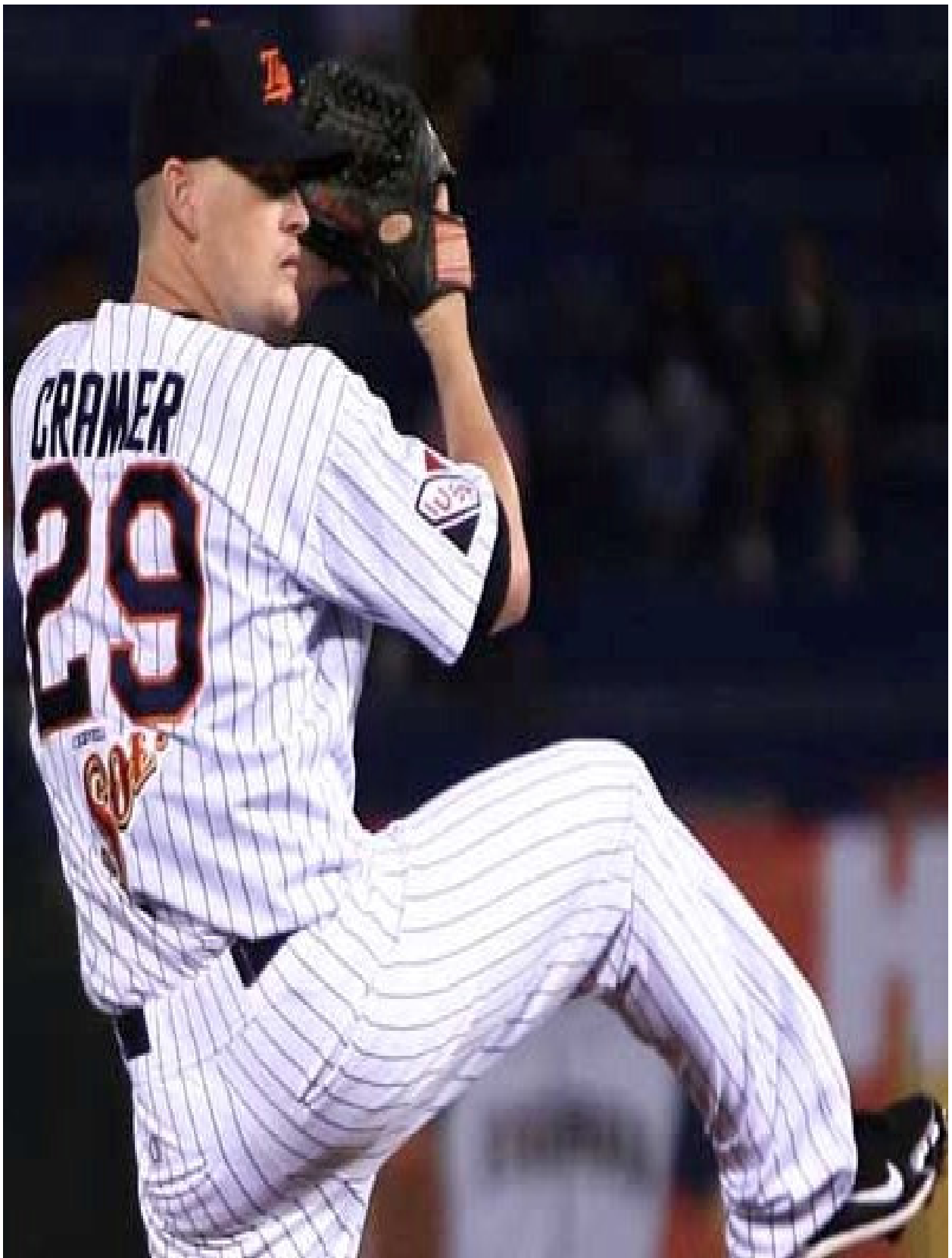


**Estadio Universitario Beto Avila, VERACRUZ (Aguilas)**



***Estadio Centenario 27 de Febrero, VILLAHERMOSA (Olmecas)***





**BBM 2010 MEXICAN LEAGUE PITCHER OF THE YEAR: Bobby Cramer, Quintana Roo**

